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Fashion Week
The force behind catwalk
pg 43

Lifting the veil

Quebec bill requires women to reveal face for services

Muslim women will be forced to uncover their faces if they want services from the Quebec government, according to landmark legislation tabled yesterday in the province.

In tabling the bill, Quebec delves into sensitive territory where governments in Canada have largely avoided treading: Setting hard-and-fast rules for accommodating minorities.

Premier Jean Charest characterized the legislation as a defence of two valued principles, gender equality and secular public institutions.

"This is a symbol of affirmation and respect — first of all, for ourselves, and also for those to whom we open our arms," Charest told a news conference in Quebec City.

"This is not about making our home less welcoming, but about stressing the values that unite us ...

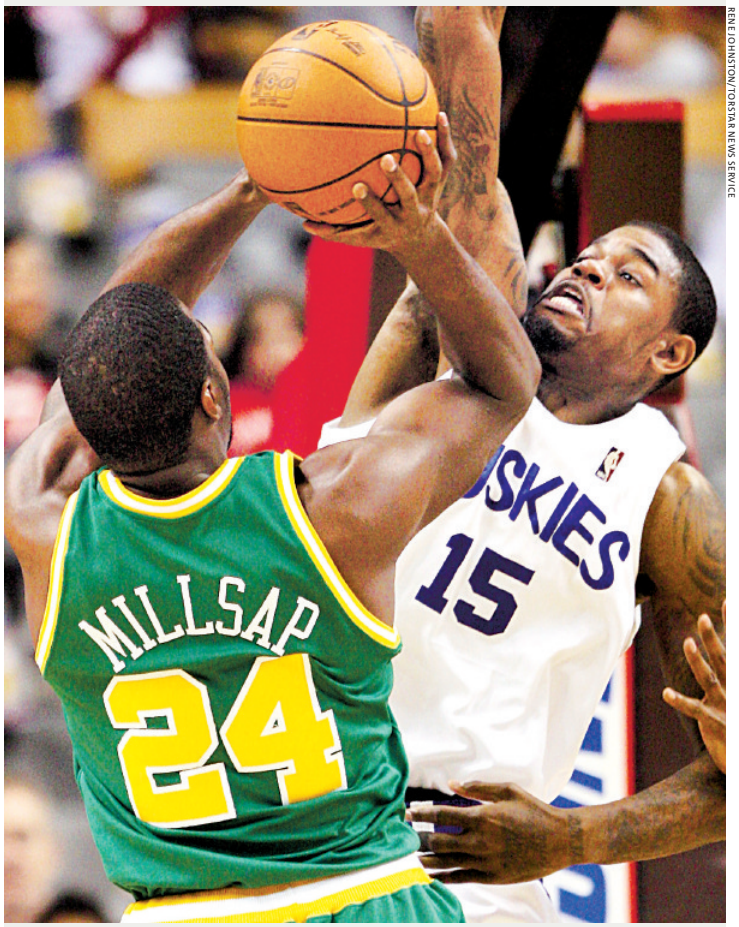
"An accommodation cannot be granted unless it respects the principle of equality between men and women, and the religious neutrality of the state."

While the debate over such identity issues has raged in Europe for years, and played out around countless dinner tables and Internet chat boards in this country, Canadian politicians have been reluctant to weigh in. Quebec is an exception to that rule. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Plain view

- The bill says people obtaining — or delivering — services at places like the health or auto-insurance boards will need to do so with their faces in plain view. Face-coverings won't be tolerated if they hinder communication or visual identification.

Hoops **Raps take it on the chin**



RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Raptors Amir Johnson, right, tries to block a shot by Utah Jazz forward Paul Millsap during last night's game at the ACC. The Jazz won 113-87. More coverage, page 32.

Drive on to honour Phil Hartman

WALK OF FAME A drive to have late comedian Phil Hartman inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame in Toronto will get a boost from Hartman's brother this weekend.

Phil Hartman

Paul Hartman will circulate a petition in downtown Brantford, where the comedian spent his early years. Phil Hartman was shot to death by his wife in 1998 in a murder-suicide.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Style pg 44

Celebrity inspiration

On the web
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Exotic dancers get chilly reception in Iceland

BAN In a break with liberal European practice, Iceland has voted to ban striptease shows, making it an offence for any business to profit from the nudity of its employees.

Iceland's legislature, the Althingi, passed the ban Tuesday night, with just two abstentions and no votes against, although almost half the country's 63 lawmakers were absent.

Both opponents and supporters of the bill said yesterday it was a European first. With the exception of the Vatican and tiny principalities like Andorra, strip clubs operate across the continent.

"I am quite happy about Iceland being the first European country to take this step," said Steinunn Valdis Oskarsdottir, a Social Democrat lawmaker who supported the ban.

"Women who work at strip clubs are in many cases the victims of human trafficking and other kinds of abuse," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Local

Cop charged with street racing

A Durham Region police officer has been charged under the province's street-racing legislation. Police spokesman David Selby says officers clocked a vehicle going more than 50 km/h over the speed limit in Ajax March 9. Selby said the limit on the street is 80 km/h. Charged is Staff Sgt. John Givelas, who was off duty at the time and driving his own vehicle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

April Lindgren brings Metro readers the issues that are affecting Torontonians

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video N.B. and Quebec pull plug on controversial power deal, with N.B. Premier Shawn Graham saying Quebec utility sought changes that no longer made it worthwhile at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Deficit not so bad: Duncan

Provincial budget shortfall $3B less than forecast, finance minister says

Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan upstaged his own provincial budget yesterday by announcing the Liberal government had shaved several billion dollars from the record $24.7-billion deficit he forecast just last fall.

Ontario will have a $21.3-billion deficit for the year ending March 31, down $3.4 billion or nearly 14 per cent, because of increased revenues "across the board" including corporate and sales taxes, Duncan announced just 24 hours before tabling his budget.

"Things have improved," he said. "We're seeing it in our own numbers: Upticks in employment; upticks in revenues; upticks in a variety of areas."

Dwight Duncan

Mary Webb, a senior economist with Scotia Economics, said it's always good news when revenues beat expectations.

"We have had quite a substantial rebound in Ontario's growth that began in the latter half of 2009 and is carrying through until the first half of 2010," said Webb. "It's reflecting in large part the rebound from extremely low levels of auto production."

However, the opposition said the Liberals shouldn't be so pleased with themselves for trimming a deficit they created by increasing spending every year they've been in office.

"A $21-billion deficit is greater than all the other provinces combined," said Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak. "If you're celebrating that, you're out to lunch."

The New Democrats said the pre-budget release of the lower deficit figure was an attempt by the Liberals to make themselves look like good managers by inflating the original deficit projection last fall.

"They're putting it out today because they want to shape how people will see their efforts," said NDP critic Peter Tabuns.

"The management of the message is them saying they're really good, when in fact they gave people a number that was incorrect in the beginning."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mississauga proposes expanded bike network

CYCLING Mississauga is proposing a 20-year plan to develop a city-wide bicycle path network intended both for recreation and to battle traffic congestion.

The city currently has 350 kilometres of bicycle paths, but they're mostly in parks. It wants to add a further 600 km, at a rate of 30 km per year over the next two decades, including bike lanes and paths connecting major arterial streets throughout the city.

The system would connect major transit hubs and other key destination points, the goal being to get people cycling to work, school and other major destinations. The project, which aims to put 95 per cent of residents within a kilometre of a major cycling route, would also include parking facilities at transit locations and city facilities.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

STREETCAR CRASH Three TTC workers were injured, one seriously, after an east-end crash between a streetcar and a TTC truck early yesterday. The accident occurred as two TTC employees were cleaning the streetcar tracks on the Gerrard Street bridge, just west of Broadview Avenue. The men had parked their truck in the middle of the lane to block oncoming traffic as they worked. Around 1 a.m., a streetcar approached and hit the truck from behind, sending it into the two men, police said. Both workers were hurt, as was the driver of the streetcar. All three were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Olympic gold **An inspiring moment**

TODD GILLIS/PHOTOLIVE.COM

Plenty of fans turned up at First Canadian Place yesterday to meet Jennifer Botterill, a member of Canada's Olympic women's championship hockey team. Among them was Natasha Glor, who got a first-hand look at a gold medal. Botterill signed autographs and posed for pictures at the event organized by Secret Deodorant. Botterill is a new Secret spokesperson.

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Police release name of stabbing victim

York Region police have released the name of a 26-year-old man who died following an altercation outside a bar in Vaughan. Roger Samaroo of Toronto was one of three men who were stabbed during the fight outside the Coconut Lounge early Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Park gets spring cleaning

Crews haul junked appliances, bikes as part of city-wide cleanup

Stuck-on stains are a drag. Mud-encrusted shopping carts are worse.

Armed with chainsaws, front-end loaders and a pretty decent pulley system, city crews hauled dead trees, bicycles and household appliances from some hard-to-reach places yesterday at Chalkfarm Park, as part of the city's spring cleanup.

This year, the city got a head start because of the nice weather. For the past few weeks, crews have been removing graffiti, clearing jams in ravines, and dusting off city-owned lanes and bridges. The work is expected to be finished in late April.

Despite all the shopping bags and scarves snagged in the park's trees, Toronto is actually cleaner than usual this year.

"It has a lot to do with the fact there was very little snow," said Myles Currie, the director of transportation services at the city. "That's a real bonus."

Last year, the cleanup netted 4,000 truckloads of waste, Currie said: Forgotten basketballs, faulty umbrellas. Couches, fridges, kitchen sinks.

1,000 The number of square metres of graffiti removed so far in the 2010 cleanup — about the same size as three IMAX screens.

The five-gallon bucket filled with human excrement was probably the worst.

"It's really disturbing," Currie said of all the appliances.

"If you contact the city for those large items, they'd pick them up." (The city does not, however, have a homemade toilet pick-up program, so consider this your warning.)

Although there's a lot of junk out there, it's not all bad. Ron Meadus once found $50 cash at Rowntree Mills Park, near Finch and Islington.

"It was the highlight of my career," Meadus said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICHARD AUTEN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ron Meadus picks up the multitude of plastic bags and water bottles strewn through the park. The city has launched a three-week cleanup blitz to combat garbage and graffiti.

Canadians know there's 'plenty of fish' on the Net

DATING When it comes to online dating, no one does it quite like Canadians.

Numerous studies suggest Canadians are pretty much the world's most active users of social networking, so it should probably come as no surprise that Canada is also a hotbed for online dating.

According to comScore, a web measurement company, Canadians spend more days a month and minutes a day on online dating sites than users in the U.S., U.K., France and Germany.

And Canada is also home to one of the world's busiest dating sites and one of the web's most unlikely success stories.

While Plenty of Fish may not be a household name for those who haven't navigated the waters of online dating, the free site is one of the world's most popular and has made a millionaire out of B.C. native Markus Frind.

Not bad for a homemade website that started as an experiment in learning a computer programming language in 2003.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

331 According to Alexa.com, Canadian dating site Plenty of Fish is the world's 331st busiest website, ranks 33rd in Canada —just behind MySpace, CNN and CBC — 79th in the U.K., and 104th in the U.S.

News in brief

STUDENTS York University president Mamdouh Shoukri has asked the school's ombudsman to make sure a recent student election was fair. The move follows complaints that election officials were unfairly harsh to candidates who opposed the incumbents, disqualifying some for handing out copies of the student newspaper without getting permission beforehand. But Krisna Saravanamuttu, who upheld his position as president of the York Federation of Students, called it an example of campus officials meddling in student politics.

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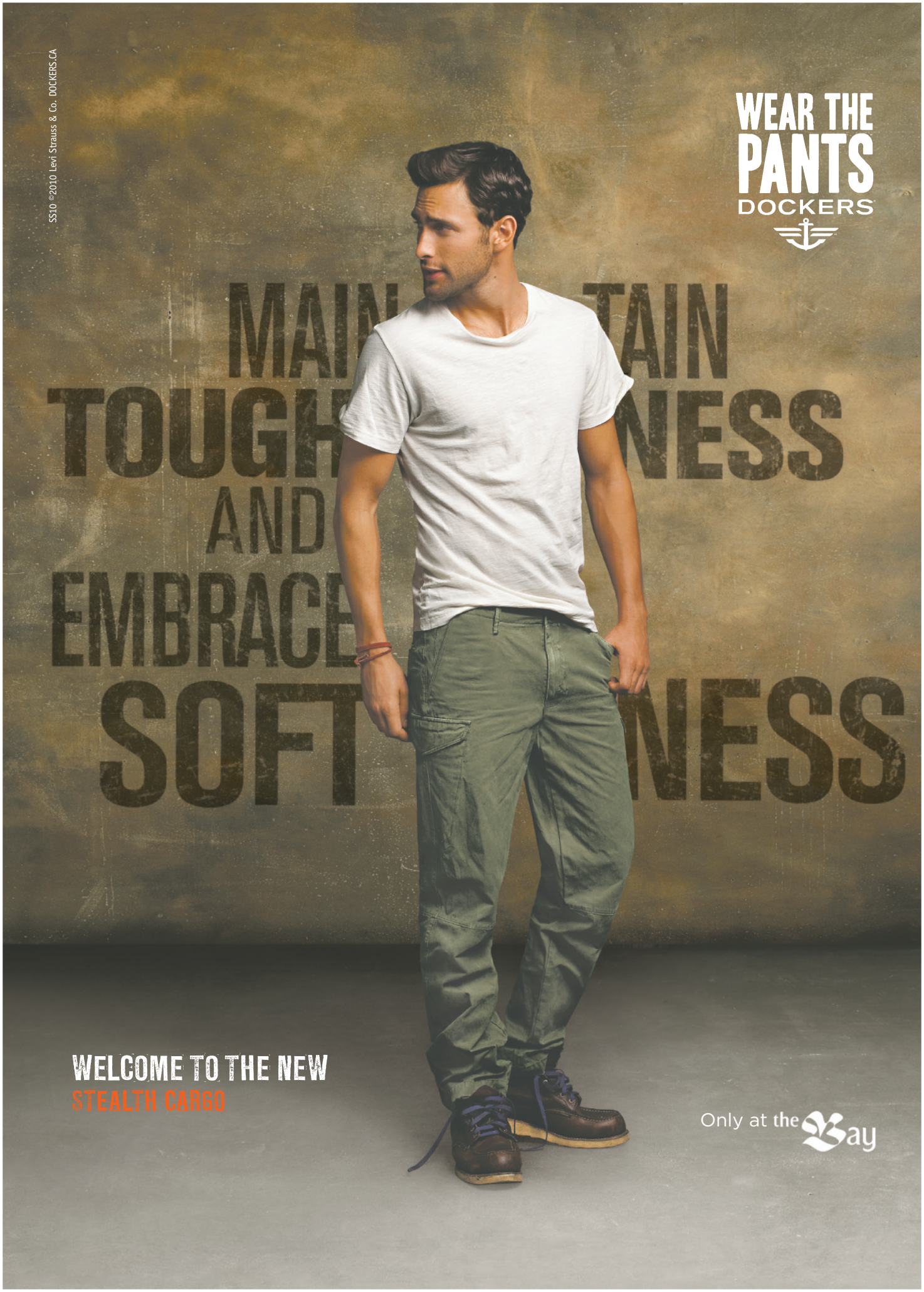
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Man charged in Mississauga hit and run

Peel police have arrested and charged a 24-year-old man in a hit and run in Mississauga. Guillermo Serrano is facing four charges after a Brampton man was run down Monday near Dundas Street and Hurontario Street. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group lauds e-health records

Cancer report card urges more funding for treatment drugs

As Donna Hammill-Chalk undergoes treatment for breast cancer, she can log onto the website at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, type in a username and secure password, and gain access to her medical records.

In Prince Edward Island, her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in December, doesn't have electronic records — but if they existed, it would be easier for her to share updates on her condition and treatment with her four grown children living in different parts of the world.

Hammill-Chalk

"Cancer — you lose all control and you can get some control back by having access to your information," Hammill-Chalk said in an interview yesterday from her home in Markham, where she is recovering from a mastectomy.

She tells her story in a report card on cancer, released by the Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada. The report also calls for more funding for cancer drugs, bans everywhere on smoking in cars with kids and more genetic testing so treatments can be targeted to those who will benefit.

Dr. Pierre Major, chair of the report card committee, said the electronic records system at Sunnybrook, known as MyChart, is the only one he's aware of that's available to cancer patients in Canada.

In terms of cost savings in other areas of cancer care, Major also urged officials to try to find ways to get some of the new and expensive cancer drugs funded in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mississauga **Toxic smoke concern in outlet fire**

ROGER CULLMAN/FOR METRO TORONTO

Firefighters took control of a smoky two-alarm blaze that broke out early yesterday in Mississauga. The blaze began at an Active Green and Ross outlet on Dundas Street near Cawthra Avenue just before 8 a.m. Fire officials say the fire began in an area where tires and chemicals were stored and there was some concern about toxic smoke. Some residents were asked to keep their windows closed. There were no injuries in the blaze and there is no indication yet as to what started it.

Jackknifed rig closes Highway 409

CRASH A tractor-trailer that jackknifed and rolled while going around a bend shut down a stretch of Highway 409 for almost three hours yesterday morning.

The crash happened before 4 a.m. when the truck was taking the ramp from the westbound Highway 401 to the 409. It failed to negotiate the turn and rolled onto a concrete barrier.

The ramp was shut down, as was the 409 between the 401 and Islington Avenue.

The driver of the big rig was unhurt, but has been issued a ticket for careless driving.

The road reopened before 7 a.m.

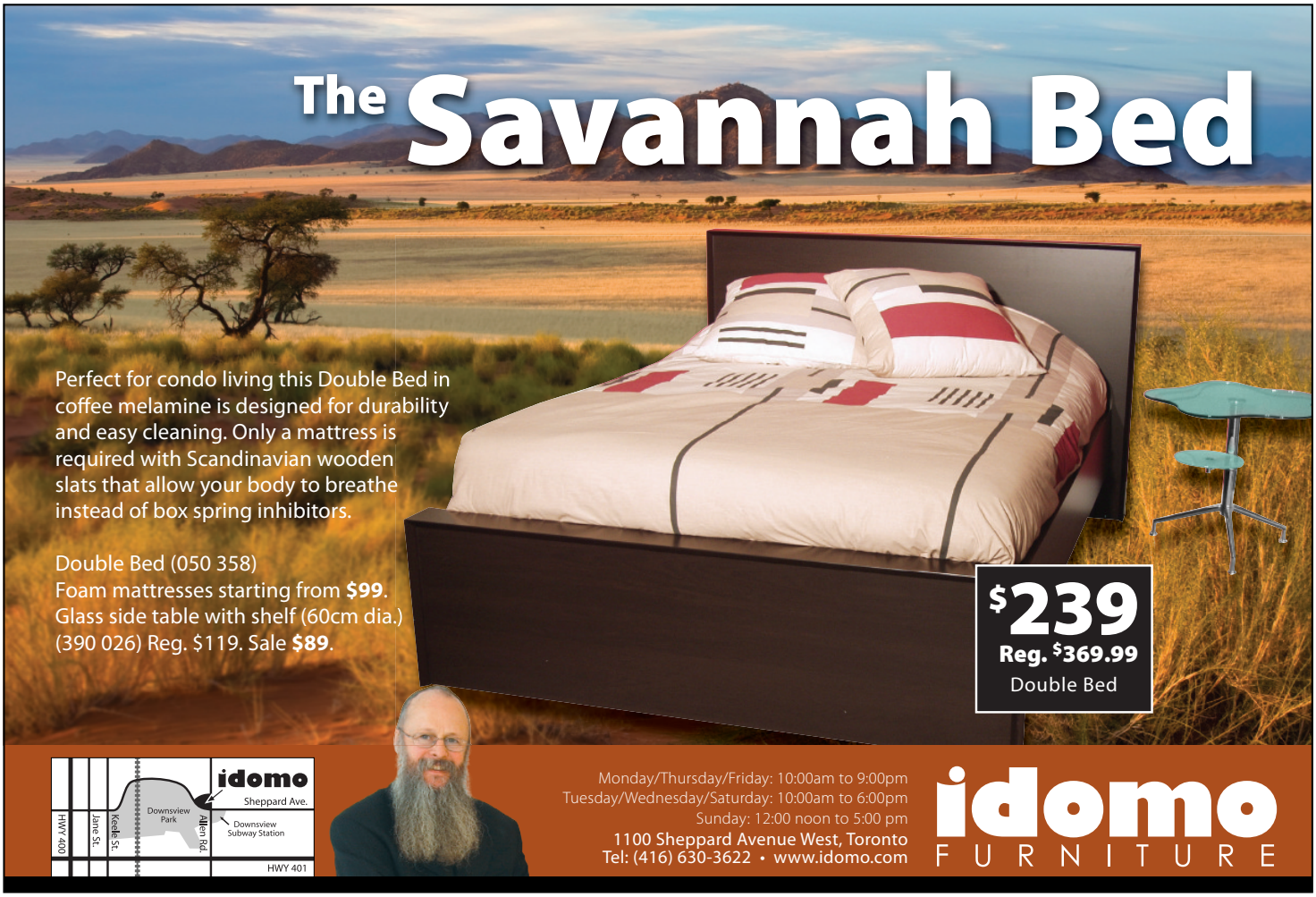
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Three women stabbed during strip club brawl in west end

ASSAULT A fight between four employees at a strip club in the city's west end turned bloody early yesterday morning, leaving three in hospital with minor wounds and one woman charged.

Police say the women are co-workers at Club Paradise on Bloor Street West near Lansdowne.

The fight began between two of the women inside the club around 2:30 a.m., just after closing time, police said. When the other two employees intervened, the fight escalated. One of the four women allegedly pulled out a knife and slashed the other three women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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North York Harvest Food Bank sets lofty goal
The North York Harvest Food Bank hopes to raise 72,000 pounds of food during its spring food drive, running to April 9. For more information, visit northyorkharvest.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Twestival – social media for social good

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

For social media cynics out there, an event taking place today in Toronto and 175 other cities around the world may just change your mind.

Called Twestival, the event uses the social media platform Twitter for social good. Essentially, volunteer organizers from around the world connect via Twitter to mobilize events in their own communities with the same goal of raising funds for Concern Worldwide — a humanitarian organization that provides education programs to some of the world's poorest people in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

"Organizing online and gathering offline allows Twestival to harness the incredible communication power of Twitter to propel participation in real events around the world," said event founder Amanda Rose.

The first Twestival took place last year and attracted 10,000 donors from around the world, who raised $250,000 for @Charitywater — a non-profit organization that provides safe drinking water to communities in developing countries. In Toronto, 300 people gathered on a yacht at Harbourfront and raised $6,000.

Sarah Prevette, the lead organizer of the Toronto event, which kicks off at 7 p.m. tonight at Tryst Nightclub, says Torontonians have already raised $18,000. Essentially, it's a big party complete with a DJ and raffles. All proceeds go to Concern Worldwide.

For more information, go to twestivalto.com. Tickets are $20 at the door.

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Police probe police after arrest video shows up on YouTube
The Victoria Police Department in B.C. is investigating its own officers after a violent arrest was caught on camera and posted to YouTube. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Share Earth Hour with us

Earth Hour is Saturday at 8:30 p.m. What will you be doing? This week we'll share some tweets from Metro readers.
Says @tomobilelawyer: *'Spending the day thinking better ways to improve my paperless law practice; saving $ being green.'*
Send your Earth Hour tweets to @metrotoronto.

Lights out: Power deal collapses

The controversial multibillion-dollar sale of NB Power assets to Hydro-Québec is dead.

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham said the $4.5-billion agreement collapsed after the Quebec utility sought changes that no longer made it worthwhile.

"It is with so much regret that I am announcing this morning that we are no longer proceeding with discussions to finalize the energy agreement with Hydro-Québec," Graham told the legislature yesterday.

"Hydro-Quebec has asked for changes to the agreement that would have unacceptably taken away some of the value and increased some of the risks for New Brunswickers."

Kaput

- The plan to sell NB Power would have seen Hydro-Québec acquire transmission and distribution systems in addition to power plants for $4.75 billion.

DAVID SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham speaks to reporters in Fredericton yesterday, the day the plug was pulled on the controversial sale of NB Power assets to Hydro-Québec.

Graham said he decided to pull the plug on the deal after he met with Quebec Premier Jean Charest late Tuesday.

He said Hydro-Québec found there were more risks than it was willing to accept.

Charest said his province decided to pull out of the deal after finding unanticipated costs.

"We reached the conclusion the sale price no longer corresponded with the assets we were buying," Charest said.

"We didn't approach New Brunswick. New Brunswick came to us, and it was done in good faith."

Opposition Conservative Leader David Alward said the death of the deal marked a great day for democracy. "New Brunswickers stood up by the thousands," Alward said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EU thinks again over oilsands?

CLIMATE The European Union may be backtracking on a fuel policy that would have discriminated against Alberta's oilsands.

Last fall, the bloc released draft guidelines that distinguished between fuel derived from the oilsands and from conventional sources.

But environmentalists who have seen the most recent draft of those guidelines say that distinction is now gone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sky's the limit for reborn hog producer
Saskatchewan's biggest hog producer says it has emerged from creditor protection and is ready for a new start.
Big Sky Farms CEO Casey Smit says it happened Saturday after 129 days in protection. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strife-torn Toyota gets boost from expert

Don't give up on Toyota. That's the advice from the head of the Automobile Protection Association.

Despite the company's recent woes, George Iny still recommends buying Toyota vehicles.

Now is actually a good time to head down to the dealer to pick one up, Iny said yesterday.

"Toyota makes great cars," said Iny, the president of the Montreal-based agency.

"You have other choices but Toyota's pricing right now is excellent because they're trying to fight to maintain their market share."

"Toyota makes great cars."
George Iny

More than 270,000 vehicles were recalled by Toyota Canada in January over concerns about sticky accelerator pedals on eight of its models.

Iny said the Japanese automaker was slow to react to the problem.

"They are only now beginning to come to grapple with the sudden acceleration issue," he said.

He said the recall has also exposed weaknesses in the way Canada investigates defects.

Iny said Transport Canada needs more resources for its small defect-investigations department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

George Iny

Driving a hard bargain

REVIEW In its annual review of the auto industry, the Automobile Protection Association cited what's hot — and what's not.

- **Chrysler,** it said, was pushing 84- and 96-month loans that will leave consumers owing thousands if they try to sell the car to pay off the loan early.
- **Ford,** it declared, was in the best shape among the domestic carmakers, with competitive models like the Fusion and Edge.
- **GM,** it noted, had appealing products like the Malibu sedan and Chevrolet Equinox SUV, but said quality issues linger on.
- **Volkswagen,** the agency said, was off its list of vehicles to avoid because VW reliability had improved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tragedy on Galloping Goose Trail

B.C. When 18-year-old Kimberley Proctor failed to turn up for a babysitting job, officers knew this was more than just another teenager dropping off the radar.

"There was a concern from the beginning," said RCMP Cpl. Darren Lagan.

Procter's badly burned body was discovered near a popular suburban Victoria hiking trail last Friday.

Now, more than 40 investigators are trying to trace her movements.

A passerby discovered the popular Grade 12 student's remains under a bridge along the well-used Galloping Goose Trail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HELPING HAND Manitoba's NDP government is going to rewrite its balanced budget law in part to let cabinet ministers avoid a 40 per cent pay cut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. finishes land-purchase program

The Nova Scotia government says it has completed its $75-million land-purchase program. The government says it has acquired more than 56,000 hectares of land in total during the past fiscal year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rates to be hiked sooner?

Low interest 'expressly conditional' on inflation outlook: Bank chief

Canadians could be facing higher interest rates sooner than previously thought as a result of stubborn inflation and stronger economic growth, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney said yesterday.

Carney did not declare higher rates were on the way, but issued his clearest signal to date that his year-old commitment to keep the policy rate at the record 0.25 per cent until July was "expressly conditional" on inflation remaining tame.

In a speech to a business audience, the bank governor noted that both underlying core inflation and economic growth have grown slightly stronger, although broadly proceeding as expected.

The tip-off to economists was that he changed his language on his conditional commitment on interest rates, which has led to historically low rates for both consumers and businesses in Canada.

"This commitment is expressly conditional on the outlook for inflation," he told the Ottawa Economic Association.

It was the first time Carney has undercut the commitment in such pointed language.

Later, Carney downplayed the significance, joking with reporters that he needed to used different words to keep the media's attention.

But economists said the distinction was significant.

"They still have considerable latitude, but the changes that would be required to their forecast are consistent with hiking rates sooner than markets are anticipating," said Derek Holt, Scotiabank's vice-president of economics. He said Carney may move as early as June 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Capt. Robert Semrau arrives yesterday following a recess in the first day of general court martial proceedings in Gatineau, Que. Semrau is on trial for the shooting death of a wounded insurgent in Afghanistan in October 2008.

Mercy behind execution: Prosecutor

COURT Moments after allegedly firing two bullets into the chest of a badly injured and disarmed Afghan insurgent, Capt. Robert Semrau told an underling that he did it out of mercy, a military prosecutor says.

Semrau, 36, has pleaded not guilty to unprecedented Canadian charges of a battlefield execution in Helmand province in October 2008.

A broad sketch of the prosecutor's case emerged for the first time yesterday, with Capt. Thomas Fitzgerald laying out for a court martial various details.

What's missing

- What the evidence does not include is a body, cause of death or autopsy report, the prosecutor told the court, though he said that is "not an insurmountable obstacle" to conviction.

The prosecutor said evidence will include an eyewitness, a nine-minute cellphone video of the alleged victim taken by an Afghan National Army soldier, military photos, RCMP ballistics evidence of two shell casings and tracer rounds recovered months later, and Semrau's own words.

Fitzgerald said Pte. Steven Fournier, who was with Semrau, will testify that Semrau told him "he could not live with himself if he left a human being and no one should suffer like that."

And a sergeant major from CFB Petawawa will testify that Semrau spoke of a "soldier's pact" during a conversation in January 2009 after he'd been charged: "You do to the enemy what you want or expect him to do to you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report sees progress in wait times

HEALTH A new study shows some progress five years after the first ministers of Canada identified priority areas for reducing wait times in the health-care system.

The annual report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information indicates there's been success in shortening the wait for radiation treatments for cancer patients.

Eight provinces provide at least 88 per cent of their patients with radiation therapy within the accepted time frame of four weeks, the report says.

Tracy Johnson, a manager at the institute, says in Ontario, Quebec and B.C., three out of four people receive cancer radiation treatment, hip surgeries and cataract operations within the wait-time benchmarks.

Some of the longest waits are for knee replacements, an area where Johnson says there's been growing demand because technology is better and younger patients are getting them along with aging boomers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Calgary cop charged with assault
A member of the Calgary Police Service has been charged with assault causing bodily harm. Police say the male officer is accused of assaulting a woman in his patrol car while he was on duty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary readies for Coulter speech

University vows to ensure talk by conservative U.S. commentator

In less than 24 hours, right-wing shock pundit Ann Coulter told Canada she didn't pay much attention to it, slagged one of its universities and insulted Muslims.

But like an over-the-top Lady Gaga concert, Coulter's performance has got Canadians intrigued, unsettled and wondering what else she's got in store as she arrives in Calgary.

The University of Calgary, the next stop on her tour, vowed yesterday to take all necessary steps to make sure Coulter's speech on campus today would go off without a hitch.

The conservative author and inflammatory commentator pulled out of her appearance at the University of Ottawa when 1,500 people tried to get into a scheduled speech that was already full to capacity with pre-registered guests.

Ann Coulter

Another few hundred loudly protested her speech outside the building.

"The purpose of a university is to encourage and promote the free exchange of ideas," University of Calgary provost Alan Harrison told reporters yesterday. "To do anything other than that is to go against what the university stands for."

Coulter and her team cited "violence" in the crowd at the University of Ottawa and claimed that the police had shut it down. Ottawa police spokesman Alain Boucher said they saw no violence, arrested no one and had only advised Coulter's entourage they should find a bigger space to accommodate everyone.

Coulter later dismissed the University of Ottawa as "bush league" in an interview with the Washington Times. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan hikes alcohol, cigarette taxes

BUDGET Saskatchewan residents will have to pay more for cigarettes and alcohol as the province raises taxes and prices in an effort to boost dwindling provincial coffers.

The measures were introduced yesterday in a provincial budget that sees the government spend more than it takes in.

"What we've done is tried to belt-tighten as best we can." Rod Gantefoer, finance minister

The government said it expects to collect $9.95 billion in revenue in the 2010-2011 fiscal year and spend $10.1 billion. That means that despite budget cuts the province must dip into its savings account to keep the books in the black.

But Finance Minister Rod Gantefoer said the government is "living within its means."

"What we've done is tried to belt-tighten as best we can to get into a spending trajectory that is flat or negative and that I think is the responsible way to go," he said.

The province needs to hold the line on spending and trim costs largely because of a plunge in potash revenue.

The pink mineral used in fertilizer was expected to bring in $1.9 billion last year, but those numbers ended up in the red. The government was forced to pay back hundreds of millions to potash producers who overpaid royalties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario woman pleads guilty to defrauding mom

SENTENCED A southern Ontario woman has pleaded guilty to posing as her mother and running up a bill in the thousands of dollars.

A court in Simcoe heard Vicki Fox, of Norfolk County, applied for credit cards using her mother's name and racked up a bill worth nearly $20,000.

Fox received a sentence of eight months in jail.

It happened as she was awaiting trial for defrauding her mother-in-law of $56,000.

Fox was also ordered to pay restitution to six financial institutions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Nova Scotia NDP won't face charges

Halifax police have closed their investigation into questionable donations that Nova Scotia's NDP received during last year's election and won't lay charges. A statement from the force says the six-month statute of limitations to lay charges has passed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mom, daughter remembered for their love of life

A small eastern Ontario community banded together yesterday to mourn two more tragic deaths in their midst, as a mother and daughter were laid to rest, remembered for their love of music and joy for life.

More than 100 people packed into the funeral home in Belleville, Ont., to say goodbye to Tracy Hannah, 46, and her daughter, Whitney Hannah, 14. The two were found slain in their home almost two weeks ago.

Their deaths were another horrifying blow to area residents, already dealing with news of murder charges against a once-respected air base commander.

"Whitney was loved by a lot of people, and I think that was clear today," said Ellie Lear, 15, as she choked back tears.

Friends and family poured into the John R. Bush funeral home, filling up four rooms to listen to the service for the mother and daughter. Another daughter is recovering from life-threatening injuries.

Music from the rock band Journey was played at the beginning of the service, as Tracy Hannah's brother gave the eulogy. He spoke about his sister's love of music, and gently joked that she always knew where to find the volume button.

Whitney was described as a typical teenager who liked to hang out with her friends and attend camp each summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charged

- Dean Brown faces two charges of first-degree murder in the deaths of the two women, who were found dead the morning of March 12 inside their Mountain View home.

Ottawa **Gov. Gen. hosts UN refugees chief**

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean greets the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres yesterday at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

News in brief

LOST AND FOUND New Brunswick RCMP said a woman who went missing from a Moncton mall last month turned up at a local police station yesterday. RCMP said Donna O'Rielly presented herself to police during the noon hour. No other details were immediately available.

H1N1 New research into the pandemic H1N1 virus shows it more closely resembles the 1918 Spanish flu virus than more modern cousins in the same flu family. The findings help explain why older individuals seemed to have a degree of immunity to the pandemic H1N1 and why years of exposure to seasonal H1N1 viruses didn't protect younger people from the new virus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Small Alberta town fights for police academy

FORT MACLEOD Alberta's solicitor general is promising to fight to ensure the provincial government follows through on its promise to build a police training college in Fort Macleod.

Frank Oberle made the pledge Tuesday night at a community meeting in the southern Alberta town.

Some of the more than 200 people who attended the meeting asked Oberle why the project announced by the province in 2006 has not gone ahead.

Oberle says there is no money earmarked for the college in Alberta's capital project plan, but he will come up with a new plan and try to get cabinet to support it.

Construction of the college was to begin in 2007 and was expected to bolster the economy of the area.

The Town of Fort Macleod has already upgraded its water and sewage facilities in preparation for the college. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Honduras, Roatan	Travel Mar 29 - Apr 5/wg	$95 + taxes & fees $230
Panama City	Travel Mar 27 - Apr 3/wg	$95 + taxes & fees $220
St Lucia	Travel Mar 29 - Apr 5/ac	$99 + taxes & fees $220
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Miami	Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/dl	$169 + taxes & fees $114
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London	Travel Mar 29 - Apr 8/ts	$199 + taxes & fees $399
Rome	Travel May 29 - Jun 18/ts	$299 + taxes & fees $314

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INCLUDES accom on the boardwalk. Departs Apr 18/wsv/ws.

Montreal Air + 3 Nights $269
Holiday Inn Montreal Midtown + taxes & fees $131
Departs Apr 27/wsv/ws.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights 4-Star $365
Luxor + taxes & fees $241
Departs Jun 6/swg/wg.

New York City Air + 3 Nights $489
Affinia 50 + taxes & fees $94
INCLUDES Midtown Manhattan accom. Departs May 5/ggv/la. ADD *The Phantom of the Opera* Broadway ticket for $115.

New Orleans Air + 3 Nights $599
Holiday Inn French Quarter + taxes & fees $123
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Renoir Hotel + taxes & fees $127
Departs Apr 26/ggv/aa.

Sun Vacations

Cancun Budget Air + 7 Nights $185

Imperial Laguna + taxes & fees $277
INCLUDES accom with kitchenette. Departs Mar 26/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Sens Cancun for $20 per night.

Honolulu Family Special Air + 6 Nights $789◊
Ohana Waikiki West + taxes & fees $144
INCLUDES accom in Waikiki with kitchenette. Departs Apr 21/wsv/ws.

Vacations

Prague 3 Nights + Transfer + Activity $379‡
Harmony Hotel taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom with breakfast, arrival transfer and Grand City Tour of Prague. Travel daily May 15 - Jun 30/ggv.

Shanghai Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star $779
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Man killed in Welland Canal crash

A 41-year-old man is dead after his vehicle plunged into the Welland Recreational Canal in Niagara Falls. His name has not been released and police continue to investigate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.L. health problems persist: Minister

HEALTH Newfoundland and Labrador has made strides in improving health care since the breast cancer testing scandal, but recent drug testing errors show a need for lab improvements, the province's health minister says.

Jerome Kennedy delivered an update yesterday on the government's progress on implementing recommendations from a judicial inquiry into the botched breast cancer tests.

The inquiry was launched to probe how more than 400 patients from 1997 to 2005 received flawed hormone receptor tests, which are considered important in determining treatment for breast cancer. At least 127 patients died, but it may never be known how many might have survived with accurate treatment.

In a scathing report last March, Justice Margaret Cameron called for 60 recommendations to repair a health care system plagued by failures.

Kennedy said the government has implemented 39 of her recommendations.

Earlier this month, Newfoundland's largest health authority released an internal review that found testing errors for cyclosporine at a biochemistry lab were not reported to executives in a timely manner.

Cyclosporine is a drug used on patients whose immune systems are threatened by disease or as a result of an organ transplant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Patients affected

- Eastern Health said 212 patients were affected by the cyclosporine test errors, which took place between June 10, 2009, and Feb. 12, 2010.

Feds launch national pension consultation

The federal government is launching a cross-country consultation process to ask Canadians how it thinks the country's pension plan should be reformed.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS PHOTO

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty announces cross-country pension consultations yesterday in Ottawa.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said he and his parliamentary secretary Ted Menzies will be staging a string of town hall meetings, expert roundtables, policy conferences and public online consultations aimed at involving a wide variety of Canadians in the discussion.

The government has already studied the viability of Canada's pension system for more than the year and commissioned a report from economist Jack Mintz that concluded Canada does not have an immediate pension crisis, although he added some groups could be vulnerable in the future.

But some provinces see the problem as immediate and unless they act now, large portions of the population will not be able to maintain their standard of living when they retire.

British Columbia and Alberta have threatened to set up their own voluntary pension supplement unless Ottawa leads the way and produces a new national plan soon.

NDP Leader Jack Layton also called on the government to move on protecting Canadians' pensions immediately, instead of launching another consultation process.

"For heaven's sake, it's time for action," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Switzerland extends olive branch to Libya

Switzerland says it will lift a travel ban on senior Libyan officials to ease tensions in a dispute that has drawn in much of Europe. The Swiss government expressed hope yesterday that Libya would respond by ending visa restrictions against citizens of Switzerland and 24 other nations in Europe's passport-free zone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Gorilla species in danger: Report

Gorillas in central Africa are in danger from illegal logging, mining and from hunters who are killing great apes for meat, said a joint report from the United Nations and Interpol released yesterday. A previous report in 2002 estimated that only 10 per cent of gorillas would remain by 2030. The author of the 2002 report and of the newly released one said that estimate now appears too optimistic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope under fire again

Accepts resignation of bishop, faces new claim

Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of an Irish bishop yesterday for his failure to report child-molesting priests to police — and faced a renewed reminder of the German abuse case most closely linked to his own time in charge of Munich.

Bishop John Magee — who served as secretary to Benedict's three papal predecessors before returning to Ireland in 1987 — apologized to victims of any pedophile priests who were kept in parish posts during his 23 years overseeing the southwest Irish diocese of Cloyne.

"To those whom I have failed in any way, or through any omission of mine have made suffer, I beg forgiveness and pardon," the 73-year-old Magee said in his resignation statement. Irish government investigators are continuing to explore Cloyne abuse coverups and expect to report findings later this year.

The Vatican is on the defensive over ever-unfolding accusations that church leaders have protected child abusers for decades in many countries.

Benedict last week issued an unprecedented letter to Ireland addressing the 16 years of church coverup scandals here. But he has yet to say anything about his handling of the Rev. Peter Hullermann, the case known to have developed on the Pope's watch when, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he oversaw the Munich Archdiocese from 1977 to 1982.

Munich Archdiocese spokesman Bernhard Kellner said yesterday a new person has come forward claiming to have been abused in 1998 by Hullermann. Kellner gave no other details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unreported

- Rev. Peter Hullermann had been accused of abusing boys in Essen, West Germany, in the 1970s when the Pope — then Cardinal — approved his 1980 transfer to Munich to receive psychological treatment for pedophilia. Until recent years the church in many countries referred child abusers in the priesthood to private clinics — and not the police — when accused of crimes.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. Treasury chief Alistair Darling holds the Budget Box, containing Britain's 2010 Budget report yesterday in London.

U.K. budget looks at growth

BUDGET The British government cut its deficit forecasts and announced a £2.5 billion ($3.7 billion) one-off growth package for the economy as the centrepiece of its annual budget yesterday — its last before an anticipated tough national election.

"This will be a budget to secure the recovery, tackle borrowing and invest in our industrial future," Treasury chief Alistair Darling told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

The governing Labour Party is lagging behind the Conservatives in polls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Car bomb rocks Colombian city

BUENAVENTURA A car bomb exploded in the centre of Colombia's Pacific port of Buenaventura yesterday, killing six people and wounding more than 30, authorities said. Buenaventura is a key cocaine trafficking centre that is rife with rival criminal bands from the right and left. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but armed forces chief Gen. Freddy Padilla said he suspected Colombia's main leftist rebel group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are Democrats in danger after U.S. health-care law is passed?

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Insulza re-elected to lead OAS

Jose Miguel Insulza has been re-elected to another five-year term as secretary-general of the Organization of American States. The former Chilean cabinet minister was the only candidate vying for the top job of the Western Hemisphere bloc. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi PM tries to forge alliance

BAGHDAD The Iraqi prime minister's efforts to forge a governing Shiite alliance inched closer yesterday after he met for the first time with members of a party led by an influential anti-American cleric who's been one of the prime minister's staunchest critics.

The State of Law coalition led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has reached out to the Iran-backed religious Iraqi National Alliance, or INA, since the March 7 parliamentary elections.

But the meeting late Tuesday with a two-member delegation from the Sadrist Trend, the movement of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, marked the first meeting with Sadrists in particular.

While exact results of the election have not been released yet, the Sadrists are expected to make up the largest portion of the INA to win parliamentary seats.

Ali al-Adeeb, a candidate on al-Maliki's State of Law list confirmed Tuesday's meeting. So did a senior Sadrist official, Karrar al-Khafaji, who said the negotiations with al-Maliki were "positive" and that the two sides have "common ties."

While it is too soon to say whether the meeting will lead to more solid co-operation between al-Maliki and the Sadrists — longtime enemies — both sides would have something to gain from working together. Such overtures serve as a warning to al-Maliki's main rival for the prime minister's job, former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, that he cannot hope for Sadrist support in his bid for the premiership.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NABIL AL-JURANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A supporter of Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki chants anti-Baathist slogans at a protest yesterday.

U.S. and Russia reach nuke deal

After long and trying negotiations, the United States and Russia have reached agreements for a historic new treaty to reduce the nuclear arsenals of the former Cold War rivals, officials said yesterday. U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev are to sign the pact in two weeks in Prague.

The deal is seen as an important step toward rolling back global nuclear dangers and sealing an increased level of trust and co-operation between the U.S. and Russia, who possess the vast majority of the world's nuclear arms and have laboured under strained relations in recent years.

Obama and Medvedev are expected to seal the deal when they talk by phone this week, setting the stage for a White House campaign to win ratification by the U.S. Senate.

The treaty also must win approval by the Russian Duma, and the two legislative processes are likely to take months.

Robert S. Norris, a longtime analyst of U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals, said Senate ratification would not be easy.

"Hard negotiations with the Russians will now be followed by hard negotiations with Republican senators to achieve ratification," Norris said.

The new agreement to reduce long-range nuclear weapons would replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expired in December.

An important feature of the new deal is that it includes a mechanism for verifying compliance by both sides, an element that was absent from a 2002 deal, known as the Moscow Treaty.

The Moscow Treaty set limits on both sides' strategic nuclear warheads at between 1,700 and 2,200. The new deal, whose provisions have not been made public, is expected to lower that to about 1,500.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

U.S. HEALTH CARE In a final drive to thwart U.S. President Barack Obama's health-care remake, Republican senators plan to force Democrats to run a gauntlet of politically dicey votes before they can finish a companion bill to the landmark law. Republican Sen. Tom Coburn wants a vote on his amendment to prohibit coverage of Viagra for sex offenders. Sen. Judd Gregg wants savings from Medicare cuts plowed back into the health-care program for seniors, instead of being used to expand coverage to the uninsured. Sen. Mike Enzi wants to gut penalties on employers whose workers wind up getting taxpayer subsidized coverage. Democrats are vowing to bat down the Republican amendments one by one.

RAY The self-help guru charged with manslaughter for the deaths of three people in a sweat lodge in October is taking his motivational messages to the Internet. In a video posted online, James Arthur Ray says he's unable to produce live events but still has a deep desire and passion to help people in any way he can. His attorneys have said his company, James Ray International, hasn't been bringing in revenue for months.

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Anti-drug czar warns of narcotics threat
Russia's anti-drug czar said yesterday that the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan was a threat to peace and security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karzai visits Beijing

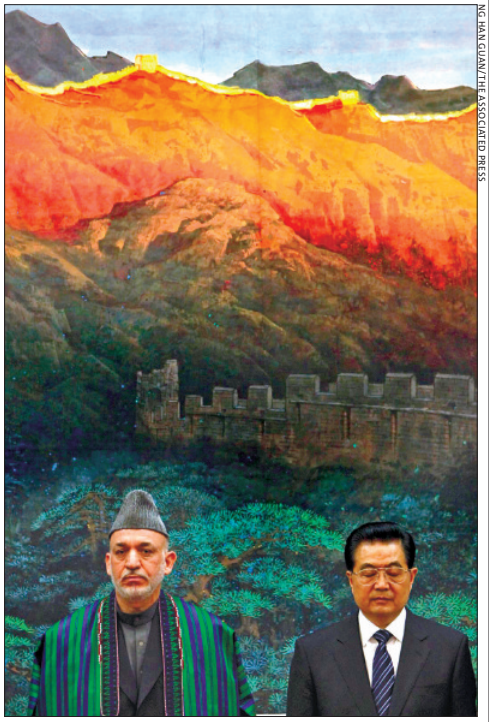
Facing criticism in the West over corruption and electoral fraud, Afghan President Hamid Karzai found a receptive audience in Beijing yesterday, overseeing the signing of economic pacts and reaffirming warm traditional ties.

The trip to Beijing comes as Karzai seeks to establish himself as a regional political figure with stature and independence, partly in response to new criticism of his leadership from the U.S., Britain and other foreign partners.

Such issues aren't likely to be raised in his talks with Chinese leaders, who oversee a one-party Communist state that brooks no dissent or criticism.

While China has no troops in Afghanistan its proximity and booming economy make it a valuable partner for the war-battered country.

The Afghan leader, mocked by some opponents as a puppet of the West, now appears eager to strike a more independent stance on the foreign stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Chinese President Hu Jintao attend a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

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Nobody hurt in Chile bomb blast

A homemade bomb exploded yesterday in Chile's capital, unsettling residents but causing only minor damages. The device — a bottle filled with hydrochloric acid and coins — was detonated in the offices of LAN Airlines a day after another improvised bomb caused minor damages to a Bank of Chile branch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weiss appeals 845-year term

Bernie Madoff is serving 150 years in prison for a multibillion-dollar fraud. Norman Schmidt got 330 years for his role in a huge investment scam. And then there's white-collar criminal Sholam Weiss, who isn't due for release until November 2754.

Weiss was sentenced to 845 years in prison in February 2000 by a federal judge in Florida, who said he should be removed permanently from society. Of course, Weiss wasn't in court at the time. He had fled overseas while a jury was deliberating.

Austrian authorities eventually found him and now his attorneys want the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to order a new sentencing hearing. They're hoping a judge would use different guidelines that would give him a sentence closer to 35 years or so.

Attorney Stephen Saltzburg was in court yesterday to argue that the federal government reneged on a promise to resentence Weiss made in exchange for Austria agreeing to send him back to the U.S.

Weiss and six others were convicted of a plot that caused the 1994 collapse of the National Heritage Life Insurance Co. and cost many of the Orlando company's 25,000 customers their life savings.

He disappeared after his nine-month trial but before the jury started deliberating. He was found guilty of all 93 counts of pocketing $125 million and given a sentence the Department of Justice says is likely the longest ever for a white-collar crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the lam

- Investigators tracked Sholam Weiss to Austria, where he was captured in October 2000. He was a shadow of the man they had sought — he had lost 50 pounds, shaved his beard and had documents that identified him as Charles Dick.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Chinese parents and residents mourn yesterday for the children killed by a knife-wielding man outside the elementary school campus in Nanping in southeast China's Fujian province.

Life felt 'meaningless' for knifing suspect

CHINA The suspect in a Chinese elementary school stabbing that left eight children dead and five wounded said he felt life was "meaningless" after romantic failures and a fruitless job search, reports said yesterday.

Former medical worker Zheng Minsheng is accused in Tuesday morning's knife attack in the Fujian province city of Nanping — one of China's most shocking crimes in years.

Zheng, 41, carried out the minute-long rampage as dozens of students and their parents stood outside the gates of the Nanping Experimental Elementary School. The dead included four boys and four girls, ages 6 to 11, while four of the wounded were in intensive care at a hospital after being stabbed in the chest, local media in Fujian province reported.

The suspect told investigators his girlfriend did not want to marry him and he felt his peers looked down on him, according to a news release on the Nanping city government website.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China lashes out at Google after search site moved

WEB China issued a blistering public attack against Google yesterday and appeared to quietly push businesses to abandon the U.S. Internet giant after it moved its Chinese search engine offshore.

The critical remarks in a high-profile Communist Party newspaper coupled with souring business deals underscored Beijing's determination to settle scores with Google after a public two-month dispute over stringent Chinese censorship policies.

By challenging the government, Google appears to have violated an unspoken rule of doing business in China, especially in the Internet industry, whose control Beijing sees as crucial to maintaining its authoritarian rule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ARRESTS Saudi Arabia said yesterday it has foiled several planned attacks on oil installations with the arrests of 113 suspected al-Qaida militants in a months-long sweep.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Landslide kills three in Indonesia

Rescuers searched for a missing baby after a landslide struck Indonesia's Sumatra island yesterday, killing three villagers and injuring 11 others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 23

Gay conference banned

Indonesian police feared violent protests

Indonesian police ordered the cancellation yesterday of a conference of Asian gay activists, saying it could prompt violent protests by conservative Muslim groups.

The conference, organized by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, or ILGA, was due to take place this weekend with participants from 16 countries. The ban was issued by police in Surabaya, East Java's capital, where the three-day event was to be held, national police spokesman Brig. Gen. Sulistyo Ishak said.

The decision was made after considering objections by Muslim groups and the Indonesian Ulema Council, an influential board of Muslim clerics, he said.

"There are indications that the event could trigger a social crisis and cause public unrest," Ishak said. "This ban was issued for the sake of public order."

Poedjiati Tan, head of the organizing committee, said more than 150 activists representing 100 organizations in 16 Asian countries planned to attend the conference.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia, but remains a sensitive issue in the socially conservative, Muslim-majority nation. At the same time, most of its society, which follows a moderate form of Islam, is tolerant with gay and transsexual entertainers often appearing on television shows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old wine **Going, going ...**

VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Kapon, director of Acker Merrall and Condit's President and Auction, poses yesterday with bottles of 70 Four Centuries of Chateau Lafite Rothschild, ranging from 1799 to 2003, during a press conference in Hong Kong. The lot is expected to fetch between $125,000 US and $175,000 US at a wine auction tomorrow and Saturday.

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'Balloon' dad finishing sentence at home, say authorities

The man who pleaded guilty to falsely influencing authorities by saying his son had floated off in a runaway balloon is completing his sentence at home. Larimer County sheriff's spokeswoman Eloise Campanella said yesterday that Richard Heene finished his time in jail and with a work-release unit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europeans eye online privacy

Watchdogs concerned with unauthorized posting on sites

You have been tagged in 12 photos — even if you're not signed up to the website.

European regulators are investigating whether the practice of posting photos, videos and other information about people on sites such as Facebook without their consent is a breach of privacy laws.

The Swiss and German probes go to the heart of a debate that has gained momentum in Europe amid high-profile privacy cases: To what extent are social networking platforms responsible for the content their members upload?

The actions set the stage for a fresh battle between American web giants and European authorities a month after an Italian court held three Google executives criminally responsible for a user-posted video.

Any changes resulting from the investigation could drastically alter the way Facebook, Google's YouTube and others operate, shifting the responsibility for ensuring personal privacy from users to the company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Permission

- To conform with Switzerland's strict privacy law, Facebook could be required to contact people whose information has been posted and ask them whether they agree to its being stored there.

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Record The bride wore pearls

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A model poses during a Guinness Record attempt yesterday for a bridal outfit decorated with 43,008 Swarowski pearls and crystals in Bucharest, Romania. The outfit, weighing more than 12 kilograms, entered the Guinness Book of World Records following examination by an official.

EU considers making divorce less painful

LEGISLATION The European Commission wants to make divorce between people of different EU countries easier under new legislation proposed yesterday.

The legislation — aimed at clearing up uncertainty over which nation's divorce laws apply — forces dual-nationality couples to agree on a jurisdiction. If they cannot, they would fall under the divorce laws of the country where they last lived together, the EU executive said.

There are about 300,000 "international marriages" — and 140,000 dual-nationality divorces — each year in the 27-nation bloc.

"International couples can encounter arbitrary legal problems that turn the tragedy of divorce into a financial and emotional disaster ... because national legal systems have so far failed to provide clear answers," EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding said.

International couples in only seven EU nations — Denmark, Latvia, Ireland, Cyprus, Finland, Sweden and the U.K. — must use the divorce law of the country where they live, while others can opt for quick procedures in a jurisdiction that would favour them.

Divorce laws in other 20 EU nations vary widely, leading sometimes to conflicting rulings as well as high legal and translation fees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Approval

- The EU divorce bill must be approved by the European Parliament and EU governments, though the 27 nations do not need to be unanimous in adopting it.

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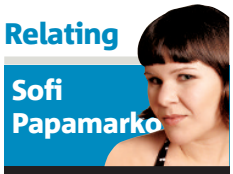
Read between the lines



In the era of social media, online dating has shed its shameful image. "We met over the Internet" is a phrase no longer greeted with pity or whispered warnings. Lavalife is the new community singles dance. Christian Mingle is the new church picnic. J-date is the new pushy Bubbe.

Of course, it's wise to proceed with caution. You can discover a lot about someone from their dating profile — more than you might think. Here's how to read between their lines:

He writes: I like hiking, cycling, tennis, hockey, etc. I'm looking for someone who can keep up with my active lifestyle.

Translation: No fatties.

He writes: I really respect strong women and would love to find a successful, independent female to share my life.

Translation: I'm unemployed and you're picking up the tab. Forever.

She writes: I've had my heart broken many times in the past, so I'm looking for something real. Players need not apply!!!!!!!!!!!!

Translation: Historically, I have a habit of selecting wildly inappropriate romantic partners and will continue to do so because that is how I roll. If you are a kind, sincere gentleman who cares about me and wishes to settle down, I will wonder what is wrong with you, complain to my friends that you are too needy and stop returning your calls.

He writes: I prefer the simpler things in life.

Translation: I live in a basement, sleep on my ex-girlfriend's discarded futon and opt for meals that can be prepared using only a can opener and a microwave.

She writes: Well, what can I say? I'm a nice person. I like shopping and chilling with my friends. If u like what u see, let's meet for a coffee and take it from there.

Translation: I have nothing relevant or interesting to say on any subject and am passionate about nothing. Hope you like awkward silence!

He writes: I'm very much in touch with my feminine side.

Translation: I will try on your underwear when you are at work.

They write: My friends think I'm funny.

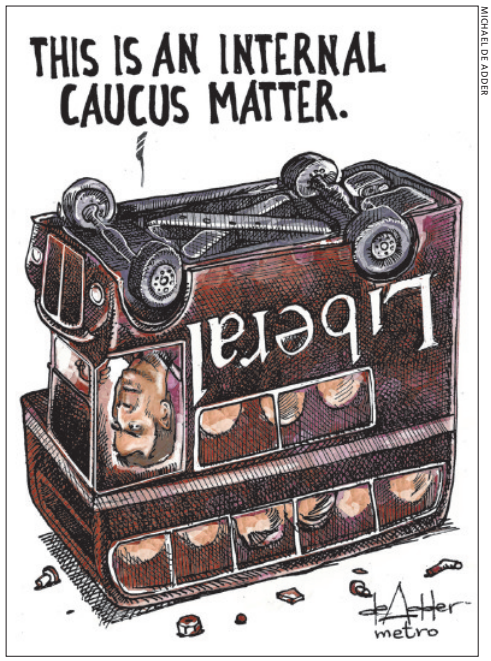
Translation: I've watched that YouTube video of the monkey picking his bum, smelling his finger and falling off the tree like a million times!

She writes: I wuvs my kitty-cat! LOL! Her name is Tiddlywinks and she is mummy's precious widdle baby angel, yes she is!

Translation: Run!

Good luck out there.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Girls and their guitars an inspiring sight

When I started going to punk shows as a teen, there were just a handful of girls in a male-dominated scene. It was apparent there were two options for girls who wanted to fit in: Exploit your sexuality, or be one of the boys.

When I saw The Runaways this past week, it was déjà vu. The new movie, about the late-1970s all-girl rock band, is advertised as a biopic about "the first girls to rock," and I'd say that's a pretty good assessment.

The two protagonists, guitarist Joan Jett and singer Cherie Currie, aim for those two tactics: Sex or toughness. Currie, known for her corsets and fishnets, chose the former; Jett, in black and leather, chose the latter (and so did I).

"Yes, once upon a time, people were THAT offended by female musicians."

The idea of an all-girl band was received poorly: Jett's guitar teacher tries to teach her On Top Of Old Smokey, and declares that girls play acoustic — not electric — guitars. At early shows, they were pelted with garbage; one detractor sneered that "guys don't like girls who are tough. Guys like girls who are soft and flirty."

Yes, once upon a time, people were THAT offended by female musicians — thankfully, that contempt doesn't exist anymore, but the idea of female rebellion still does.

Consider Currie was just 15 years old when she joined the band. On stage, she strutted with a microphone cord snaked around her fishnetted leg. Shocking! But rock 'n' roll is built on sexuality, and so much of growing up is about taking control of one's own body.

In one scene, the band's manager howled: "Rock is a blood sport — it's for men. This isn't about women's lib, it's about women's libido." In recent interviews, Jett said her "parents always told me I could do anything I wanted." Of her image, she said: "I think it's important that you're able to own it. And women owning their sexuality is threatening."

Rock music has a transformative effect — for misfits such as these girls, it's an escape from a life you don't fit into; it connects you with likeminded people, ideas, politics. It was for me, and I'd guess it was for The Runaways, too. All you can do is throw yourself into the rough and tumble and hope you come out the other side.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

Worth mentioning

DNA analysis may indicate new member of family tree

In the latest use of DNA to investigate the story of humankind, scientists have decoded genetic material from an unidentified human ancestor that lived in Siberia and concluded it might be a new member of the human family tree.

The DNA doesn't match modern humans or Neanderthals, two species that lived in that area around the same time — 30,000 to 50,000 years ago.

Instead, it suggests the Siberian species lineage split off from the branch leading to moderns and Neanderthals a million years ago, the researchers calculated. And they said that doesn't seem to match the history of human ancestors previously known from fossils.

So the Siberian species may be brand new, although the scientists cautioned they're not ready to make that claim yet.

Other experts agreed that while the Siberian species may be new, the case is far from proven.

Skepticism

- The researchers, who say the Siberian species is not a direct ancestor of modern-day people, hope further genetic analysis will show if it's a new species. Some experts are skeptical about whether such analysis will resolve that.

"We really don't know," said Ian Tattersall of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, who wasn't involved in the new research.

But "the human family tree has got a lot of branchings. It's entirely plausible there are a lot of branches out there we don't know about."

The discovery "is like many new finds," said Eric Delson of Lehman College of the City University of New York, who didn't participate in the new work. "You say, 'I think this is different, but I'm not sure.' And then you look for more material and you try to make better comparisons."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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7378 Yonge St.

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Jam-maker Smucker to shutter four plants

The J.M. Smucker Co. says it will close four plants and cut 700 jobs and modernize other plants to cut costs. The maker of Smucker's jam and Folgers coffee said it will close its fruit-spread plants in Tennessee and Ste. Marie, Que., and coffee plants in Texas, and Missouri. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Euro leaders mull ways to bail Greece

ECONOMY The sinking euro and a downgrade of Portugal's debt put renewed pressure on European leaders to come up with a bailout plan for Greece and stem the government debt crisis undermining their shared currency.

But agreement remained elusive as a summit today approached. Germany is holding back a deal, reluctant to put taxpayer money on the line for Greece. But failure to help an indebted eurozone country would be an admission that Europe can't halt the crisis in its currency union.

In its downgrade yesterday of Portugal's debt, Fitch Ratings said Portugal's prospects for recovery were weaker than others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile banking up

ING Direct latest to launch full-featured app

Mobile banking is finally gaining steam in Canada, long after U.S. consumers started paying bills on their BlackBerrys and iPhones, but some analysts wonder whether Canadians will rush to embrace banking apps.

ING Direct is the latest Canadian financial institution to launch a full-featured mobile banking app that allows customers to transfer funds, check account balances and transactions, and search for the nearest ABM on a BlackBerry or iPhone.

Last month, CIBC released an iPhone app that allows money transfers and bill payments. Scotiabank's BlackBerry and iPhone apps only allow users to find their nearest branch or ABM, while RBC and TD Bank don't have an app but have optimized websites for banking on mobile phones.

In a report released last month, Forrester Research suggested Canadians are very happy with online banking and aren't really all that interested in going mobile. In a survey of nearly 6,000 Canadians, the most popular responses to why users hadn't enrolled in mobile banking were: "I don't see the point," "I get everything I need from online banking," and "my banking needs are not that urgent that I can't wait to access my accounts through the phone, ATM, or the web."

The Canadian market for mobile banking is still relatively small but it will grow and it makes sense for banks to go after the early adopters, said IDC Canada analyst Robert Burbach. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

ENERGY Bonavista Energy Trust will pay $228 million in cash to buy Suncor Energy natural gas properties in Alberta as Canada's largest oil and gas company continues to shed non-core operations. Bonavista said yesterday the acquired properties are adjacent to its Whitecourt operations in Alberta and the trust will fund the strategic acquisition with a combination of equity sales and bank debt.

AUTOS Fiat dismissed as "premature" a report yesterday by an Italian newspaper saying the automaker will cut 5,000 jobs, slash the number of car models and increase production in a business plan to be unveiled next month. Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported the cuts would affect about 15 per cent of the 30,000 assembly line workers at Fiat. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Starbucks signals it's back in game

COFFEE Starbucks Corp. will begin paying a 10-cents-per-share cash dividend to investors, the coffee giant said yesterday, signalling confidence that its ambitious turnaround effort has taken hold.

The company tried to make over its image, emphasizing cheaper drinks and adding more local flair. The changes seem to be working. In 2009, its profit climbed 24 per cent and its share price doubled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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STOP HAIR LOSS

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is a natural health product used in the treatment of hereditary androgenic alopecia *(AGA)* in adults ***(male or female pattern baldness.)*** It contains scientifically calculated proportions of extracts of fenugreek seeds, saw palmetto berries and flax lignans. Each are known to possess an inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for causing male or female pattern baldness. It also contains a mixture of B vitamins, folate and biotin to help metabolize these herbal extracts so that they are more bio-available, and to support the growth of strong and healthy hair.

What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

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D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
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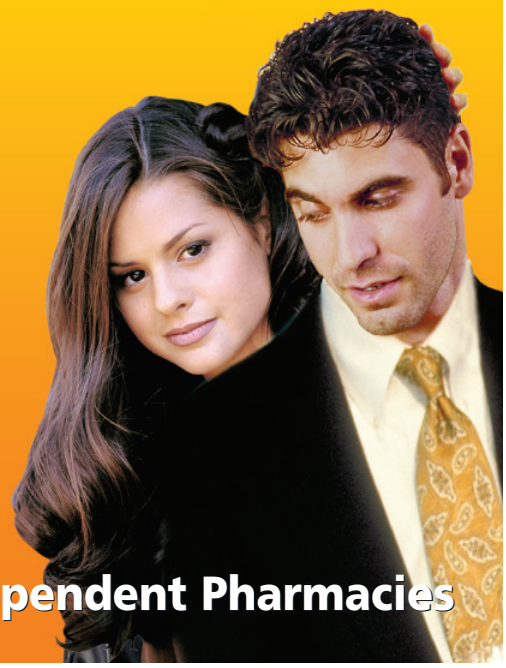

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Bombardier to build 49 more trains for France's national railway

Bombardier Transportation, the Berlin-based subsidiary of Bombardier Inc., says it has received an order worth $474 million US to provide an additional 49 regional double-deck trains to France's national railway. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WestJet eyes bigger slice

Goal: Half of market, CEO says

WestJet's new chief executive says the Calgary-based airline wants to have about half of the domestic market in the coming years but it may need a different kind of plane in its fleet to reach that goal.

WestJet now has about 38 per cent of the Canadian market, WestJet CEO Gregg Saretsky told the National Bank Financial transportation and logistics conference in Toronto. In contrast, Air Canada estimates it has 56 per cent of the market.

"Our growth plan is geared to getting closer to 50 per cent share," he said.

He said WestJet expects to have about 45 per cent of the market within two to four years but it will be more difficult to reach 50 per cent because many Canadian markets are too small to support WestJet's 119-seat planes.

While no decision has been made to acquire smaller aircraft, he acknowledged WestJet has regular, internal discussions about it.

"Do we acquire a second fleet type? …Or do we just buy seats from an airline that can provide that through a capacity-purchase agreement," Saretsky told analysts.

"Our growth plan is geared to getting closer to 50 per cent share."
Gregg Saretsky, WestJet CEO

He said the airline's focus is still to be one of the best low-cost operators of a Boeing 737 fleet. WestJet plans to increase its fleet to 135 jets in 2016 and increase its international reach in areas, such as the Asia-Pacific and the Indian subcontinent through agreements with other carriers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Internet censorship **Australia following China?**

BOB STRONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People use computers yesterday at an Internet cafe in Sydney, Australia. Internet giants Google and Yahoo have criticized Australia's proposal for a mandatory Internet filter that would block access to sites that include child pornography, sexual violence and detailed instructions in crime or drug use. If adopted into law, the screening system would make Australia one of the strictest Internet regulators among the world's democracies, and the proposal has put the country on the Reporters Without Borders annual Enemies of the Internet list.

Business in brief

REAL ESTATE The Canadian Real Estate Association says it has not received any offers from the Competition Bureau to settle allegations of anti-competitive behaviour and has no plans to take Canada's federal competition watchdog to court. The bureau rejected CREA's amendments made to its rules Monday to lift restrictions on realtors' minimum service requirements. It will continue to pursue an application filed in February with the Competition Tribunal, which enforces competition laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AGF Management doubles profits as markets recover

EARNINGS AGF Management Ltd. says it more than doubled profits to $30.6 million in the first quarter compared to a year ago as it booked higher revenues on stronger global markets.

The Toronto-based mutual fund and investment management firm said yesterday that its earnings amounted to 34 cents per share, missing analyst estimates by a penny but up from $12.2 million or 14 cents a year before.

Quarterly consolidated revenue increased to $156.2 million from $138 million a year earlier.

34.4% AGF said assets under management rose 34.4 per cent to $43.8 billion from $32.6 billion in the same period of 2009.

The firm noted that improved economic and market conditions helped increase the company's profits during the period, particularly from institutional clients. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians see higher mortgage costs: Poll

HOUSING A majority of Canadians expect to see higher mortgage rates over the next year, according to RBC's annual homeownership survey.

The bank says 64 per cent of Canadians expect high rates, with about the same number of mortgage holders concerned about higher rates.

Three-quarters, or 73 per cent of homeowners, feel strongly that homebuyers need to think ahead to ensure they will still be able to make their mortgage payment if rates rise.

Principal

- Eighteen per cent of homeowners say they've made a lump sum payment on their mortgage and 16 per cent have doubled their payment to reduce their principal.

The bank says six in 10 mortgage holders say they have taken advantage of current low interest rates to pay more principal.

While 84 per cent of mortgage holders believe they are doing an excellent or good job of paying down their mortgage, 49 per cent say their mortgage is larger than they thought it would be at this stage in their life.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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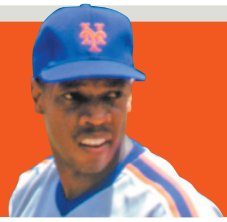

Gooden charged after crash

Former Major League Baseball star Dwight Gooden, left, has been charged with driving under the influence of drugs and leaving the scene of an accident. The former pitcher for the New York Mets and New York Yankees had a child in his vehicle at the time of the two-vehicle crash around 9 a.m. Tuesday, police said. Police wouldn't say whose child it was, but they said no one was hurt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Patrick Chan performs his short program yesterday at the world figure skating championships.

Chan in the hunt

Patrick Chan's wide smile was back, and so was the wonderfully familiar sense of lightness in his skating that had abandoned him so abruptly in Vancouver.

With the weight of the pressure of the Olympics off his shoulders, the Canadian finds himself in the hunt for his second consecutive medal at the world figure skating championships, finishing second in the short program yesterday with the best skate of his season.

The 19-year-old from Toronto scored 87.80 points for his performance to Tango de los Exilodos, more than six points higher than he scored a month ago in Vancouver, where he bobbled his triple Axel, stumbled on his step sequence and then stepped off the ice at a jam-packed Pacific Coliseum with a look of utter bewilderment. Chan went on to finish fifth in his Olympic debut.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dube, Davison

- Canadian skaters Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison finished sixth in the pairs.

Sports in brief

WOODS Tiger Woods will hold his first press conference in nearly five months on Monday of the Masters. Augusta National released a tentative interview schedule yesterday that shows Woods speaking to reporters April 5.

CURLING Canada's Jennifer Jones suffered the first blemish on her record at the women's world curling championship yesterday with an 8-7 loss in an extra end to Germany's Andrea Schopp.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Syracuse centre Arinze Onuaku will not play tonight against Butler in the West Regional semifinal. Orange coach Jim Boeheim said the six-foot-nine centre is doing better but will not be available for the Butler game.

NBA The Denver Nuggets might not have coach George Karl back on the sideline until the playoffs begin next month. Karl is undergoing treatment for throat and neck cancer and, according to a blog by his girlfriend, he was hospitalized this week with blood clots in his lungs and a leg.

BASEBALL Major League Baseball made a minor change to its post-season schedule yesterday, eliminating an off-day in the middle of the league championship series and adding one before the World Series. The change was the first made at the recommendation of the special committee for on-field matters appointed in December by commissioner Bud Selig.

BASEBALL The Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 yesterday behind two solo home runs by Jason Bartlett and another solid pitching performance by Jeff Niemann.

SOCCER Tottenham staged a second-half comeback to reach the FA Cup semifinals with a 3-1 victory over Fulham yesterday and stayed fourth in the Premier League after Manchester City was beaten 2-0 by Everton.

SOCCER Samuel Eto'o scored twice — his second goal coming with a spectacular bicycle kick — and Inter Milan beat Livorno 3-0 yesterday to restore a four-point lead in Serie A.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL tackles safety concerns

RULES NFL players should be safer during games thanks to several rules changes passed at the league meetings yesterday. They also might be playing longer in regular-season overtimes.

The NFL passed rules to further protect defenceless players, including ball carriers who lose their helmet during a play. Seven of eight overall rules proposals were adopted, then several owners said they also expect the modified overtime for the playoffs that passed the previous day to be revisited in May to include the regular season

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL abuzz about where Canadian-born safety O.J. Atogwe will play next year

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Thrashers thriving after trading Kovalchuk

NHL PREVIEW

Leafs at **Thrashers**

A funny thing happened when the Atlanta Thrashers traded Ilya Kovalchuk — their captain, star and all-time leading scorer.

Things started being less about Kovalchuk and his contract demands, and more about the rest of the players on the Atlanta Thrashers, who play the Maple Leafs tonight in Atlanta at 7.

"When you lose somebody of that stature, it's like a fear that drives you, the fear of being embarrassed, the fear of losing," said Thrashers coach John Anderson. "So we pulled together as a team a little bit tighter because we had to to survive."

The Thrashers have not only survived that Feb. 4 trade that sent Kovalchuk to the New Jersey Devils in a multi-player deal, they have thrived.

When the deal happened, they were in 11th place in the Eastern Conference. Now they're in ninth, three points out of a playoff spot and four points up on the 10th-place Rangers.

They were riding a four-game win streak and had a big chance to leapfrog Boston for eighth in a head-to-head match Tuesday night, but fell 4-0 and allowed Boston to pull three points ahead.

"There's nothing we can do about it now," said Anderson. "Hopefully, we can make it somewhere else. They have to go through not faltering either, and Philadelphia can't falter and Montreal can't falter. We've been in this can't-lose situation for a month."

It certainly helped that GM Don Waddell picked up two solid NHLers — Niclas Bergfors and Johnny Oduya — from New Jersey in that deal. Bergfors, a rookie forward, has seven goals and six assists in 18 games with the Thrashers. Kovalchuk, by comparison, has six goals and 10 assists in the same time with New Jersey.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Antropov

- Former Leaf Nik Antropov signed with the Thrashers as a free agent over the summer and has taken over as Atlanta's top scorer, despite going goal-less his first 17 games. He has 63 points in 69 games.

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Hendrick ranked NASCAR's most valuable team by Forbes

Forbes' annual rankings show that Hendrick Motorsports is the most valuable team in NASCAR for the second consecutive year. Forbes' report released yesterday shows NASCAR's top team is worth $350 million US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

N.Y. Rangers 5 N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 4 Pittsburgh 3 (SO)
Montreal at Buffalo
St. Louis at Detroit
Los Angeles at Colorado
Anaheim at Vancouver

TODAY'S GAMES

Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
TORONTO at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

EASTERN CONFERENCE OVERALL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
y-Washington	73	49	14	10	287	206	108
d-New Jersey	72	43	25	4	195	172	90
d-Buffalo	71	39	22	10	200	180	88
Pittsburgh	74	42	25	6	228	212	90
Ottawa	74	39	30	5	198	212	83
Philadelphia	73	37	31	5	212	201	79
Montreal	73	36	30	7	196	200	79
Boston	72	33	27	12	180	181	78
Atlanta	73	32	30	11	218	234	75
N.Y. Rangers	73	32	32	9	191	196	73
Florida	72	30	31	11	190	210	71
Tampa Bay	73	29	32	12	191	227	70
Carolina	73	30	34	9	203	229	69
N.Y. Islanders	73	29	34	10	189	227	68
TORONTO	**73**	**26**	**35**	**12**	**195**	**242**	**64**

y - clinched division title; d - division leaders

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Utah 113 TORONTO 87
Charlotte 108 Minnesota 95
Indiana 99 Washington 82
Orlando at Atlanta
Denver at Boston
Sacramento at New Jersey
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
Cleveland at New Orleans
Houston at Oklahoma City
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio
Memphis at Golden State

TODAY'S GAMES

Miami at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

For more scores, visit metronews.ca/sports

Jazz rock Raptors

NBA RESULTS

Jazz 113 Raptors 87

Deron Williams led a balanced attack with 18 points, 16 assists and eight rebounds as the Utah Jazz trounced the Toronto Raptors 113-87 last night.

Carlos Boozer added 18 points and 11 rebounds while Mehmet Okur and rookie Wesley Matthews had 16 points apiece for the red-hot Jazz (47-25), who earned their third straight win. Seven Jazz players finished with at least 12 points.

Chris Bosh celebrated his 26th birthday with a 20-point performance for the Raptors (35-35), who lost ground to the Charlotte Bobcats in the race for seventh place in the Eastern Conference. The Bobcats upended the Minnesota Timberwolves 108-95, extending their lead over Toronto to 1½ games.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh tries to defend against Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer last night. The Jazz won 113-87.

Antoine Wright had 10 of his 15 points in the second quarter for the Raptors, while Andrea Bargnani added 12 and Jose Calderon 10. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Despite new labour deal, questions remain for MLS

SOCCER Labour strife is resolved, the league's reigning MVP and perhaps best team reside near the glitz of Hollywood, a new $200-million US stadium is open in the league's largest market, and the 16th franchise is about to debut.

Seems everything is going great for Major League Soccer, right?

Well, not quite.

A potentially crippling strike was averted when the players union and owners agreed on a new five-year labour contract last weekend.

But the league begins 2010 with its biggest name, David Beckham, perhaps on the shelf for the entire year because of injury, its second-biggest, Cuauhtemoc Blanco, returning to Mexico, and just two teams that turned a profit a year ago.

The ability of a league entering its 15th season to avoid a work stoppage was crucial to building on the momentum the MLS has gained in recent years. Sparkling debuts in Seattle and Toronto — the only two profitable teams from 2009 — along with a deeper talent pool and some important international signings have boosted the league's profile.

The old collective bargaining agreement expired Jan. 31 and talks were at a stalemate earlier this month when George H. Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, was brought in to help make headway. Players wanted free agency, while owners were steadfastly opposed to anything but the single-entity structure for all contracts the league has used since its inception in 1996.

The owners won out when it came to free agency, but players gained increased rights, better minimum salaries and guaranteed contracts for about 60 per cent of the players. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tonight's action

- The league kicks off tonight when Seattle hosts expansion Philadelphia.

Old Habits Die Hard

Consumers Remain Complacent About Rising Car Insurance Rates

What Does Your Renewal Notice Say?

If you're like many consumers, your renewal notice is coming up again, a day you always dread. How much will your rate increase this year? With rates increasing by an average of almost 10% over the last 12 months across Ontario insurers, chances are your rate is going up again, even if your driving record has not changed. You might figure there is no point shopping around for a better rate since everyone's rates seem to be increasing. Better to at least save your time by signing back the renewal, just like you do every year, right? Wrong. You can save time and money on your car insurance…if you know where to look.

How Do I Break The Cycle?

First, you need to realize that you have control over your car insurance costs – you just need to exercise it. And the simplest way to do that is to shop around. Why? Because despite what you've heard about rising car insurance rates, the size of the increase can vary significantly from one company to the next and from one driver to another. The truth is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

Have you tried shopping for a better rate in the past and found yourself spending hours on the phone, calling around to various insurance companies to get quotes, only to find you still can't get a better deal? Do not despair, InsuranceHotline.com can help by instantly providing quotes from over 30 insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available. Best of all, the service is absolutely FREE.

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Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
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1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904

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Rates may vary by province; check RateSupermarket.ca for the best rates in your area.

RateSupermarket.ca
Canada's rate comparison website

Metro Homes

Clean up time of year

This week Metro Homes will be focusing on starting anew, just like the current season, spring. With spring time upon, that means it's time to tidy up all the clutter that's been clanging around the house in the winter months. So grab a broom and enjoy.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA
Bust of Alexander the Great

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA
Graffiti on Broadview

RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA
Tudor homes in the neighbourhood

Danforth: Culture, grit, class

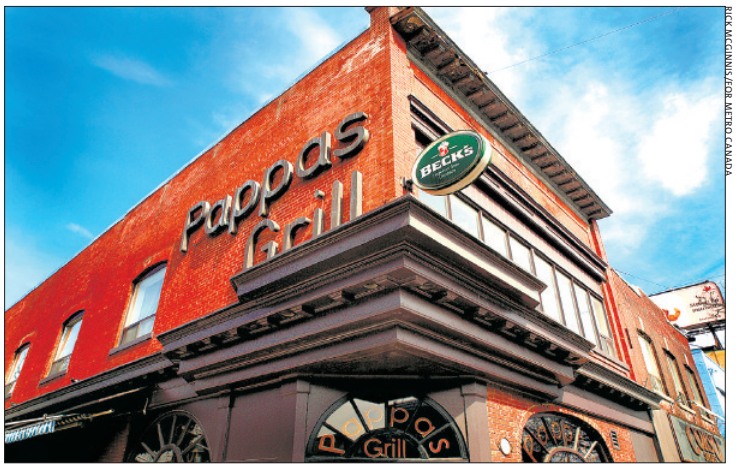
Danforth-East York
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Bustling with life and brimming with culture, the Danforth is a great place to grab a souvlaki, find a good used book or just take a walk down the street.

A multicultural melange that runs along the neighbourhood's namesake road from the Don Valley Parkway to Coxwell Avenue — and can include the Broadview North neighbourhod, including Pape Village, from O'Connor Drive in the north to Danforth Avenue. The community of the Danforth enjoys its metropolitan comforts as much as it does its peaceful sense of retreat.

Long known as Toronto's Greek area, the Danforth has increasingly welcomed a multicultural population big enough that it can't solely be thought of as a predominantly Greek neighbourhood anymore. City of Toronto stats show high numbers of Chinese and Italian residents as well as significant numbers of German, Serbian and Gujarati speakers throughout. Toronto is also believed to hold the world's third-largest population of Serbs outside of Serbia itself and a large portion of them live north of the Danforth.



RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA
Food and shopping are a big draw on the main Danforth strip, which sees its nooks and crannies crammed with neat, unique shops, bars and restos, including Pappas Grill.

The lowdown

- Average property value: $382,507
- Average rent: $825
- Notable schools: Danforth C & TI (800 Greenwood Ave.), Jackman Avenue Jr PS (79 Jackman Ave.), East York CI (650 Cosburn Ave.), RH McGregor ES (555 Mortimer Ave.), Earl Haig Jr PS (15 Earl Haig Ave.)
- Condos: MintoSkyy (Broadview & Pottery), Broadview Villas (north of Broadview & Danforth)
- Getting around: Six subway stations from Broadview to Coxwell and access to the Danforth GO station in the east. Nearby access to the DVP. Bus route along Danforth connecting to Kennedy Station and the Scarborough RT.

Suits and jean jackets pass each other on the corner of Broadview and Danforth while cars zip across the iconic Bloor Viaduct.

North of Danforth, a web of residential streets dates back to the late 19th century with many houses in the area having undergone a wave of restorations and renovations in the 1970s following the opening of the Bloor-Danforth subway line. The subway has continued to serve as the lifeblood of the area, bringing in visitors and shoppers and keeping the area popular for homeowners and renters alike.

You may recognize Centennial College as the site of the famous Canadian TV drama Degrassi High in the early 1990s.

For history lovers, the historic buildings and museum situated within Todmorden Mills Park provide a great glimpse into the past and a good place for a picnic.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

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Monarch

Gazing across the valley

Danforth-East York
Spaces & Places

RICK MCGINNIS
for Metro Canada

A hundred years ago, if you'd stood with your back to the Don Valley looking eastward on Danforth Avenue, you'd be standing on dirt and brush.

There would be just one notable building — the Playter Society Building — on your right. That building, with its curved brick corner, is still there today, while the bustling Danforth stretches eastward.

The Playters who built this modest landmark — brothers Albert and William — were grandsons of Capt. George Playter, the Loyalist soldier who settled across the Don. Their brother, John Lee, built the landmark farmhouse that still stands at 28 Playter Cres. It's the centrepiece of Playter Estates, the neighbourhood that Albert and William developed from their building at Danforth and Broadview.

RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO CANADA

Here is quite an example of the large, sturdily built houses to be found in the Playter Estates area of the Danforth-East York.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Todmorden Mills is located not far north of the main strip.

Facing Playter Estates on the northern edge of Riverdale is John Maxwell's matched pair of bars — Allen's and Dora Keogh's.

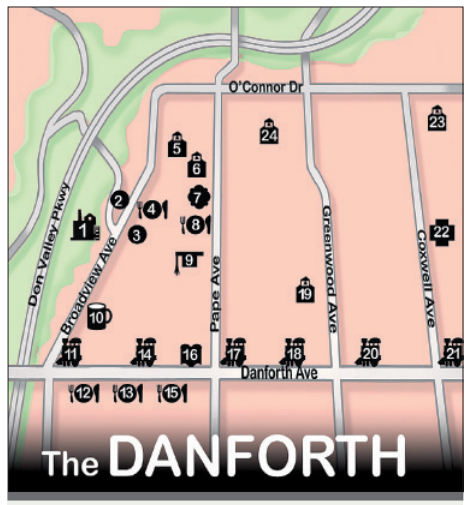
Maxwell describes locals as "young, family, two income, sophisticated and left-leaning. They do a lot of shopping and dining out here," he says.

"That's what makes everything happen around here. The merchants don't make it happen, it is the consumers (who) make it happen and the merchants respond."

On the other side of Chester the houses might be a bit less grand but the street is thronging — one of the city's most venerable ethnic enclaves. An enclave that's managed to retain its character despite at least a decade's gentrification.

Greeks began arriving here after the Second World War, and by the late '70s it had become the largest Greek enclave in North America. The colours are blue and white, the dish is souvlaki, and the choices are dizzying — Astoria, Asteria, Kalyvia, Omonia, Avli, Myth, Mezes, Megas, Messini, Pappas, Pantheon and more.

There's also Re:Reading, one of the city's most popular used book shops, and a long-thriving branch of the Book City chain, and there are pet boutiques such as Small Wonders (148 Danforth Ave.) and For The Love Of Pets (930 Pape Ave.), all of which underline the demographic prosperity of a neighbourhood whose residents cook, read and pamper their pets.



Legend

- 1: Todmordren Mills
- 2: MintoSkyy condo
- 3: Broadview Villas
- 4: Whistler's restaurant
- 5: Chester ES (school)
- 6: Westwood MS (school)
- 7: For the Love of Pets
- 8: California's
- 9: Centennial College
- 10: Broadview Espresso
- 11: Broadview Station
- 12: Old Nick
- 13: Dora Keoughs/Allen's
- 14: Chester Station
- 15: Messini's
- 16: Re:Reading book store
- 17: Pape Station
- 18: Donlands Station
- 19: Danforth C & TI (school)
- 20: Greenwood Station
- 21: Coxwell Station
- 22: Toronto East General Hospital
- 23: East York CI (school)
- 24: Holy Cross (school)

How not to get bogged down while cleaning up

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

When spring is in the air, I get the urge to turn over a new leaf. Along with the annual rebirth of nature, I plan to renew my house, office, files and affairs. That means spring-cleaned, thinned out and organized.

Sounds simple?

Well, it's not. I've made this courageous pledge before, only to get bogged down in my stuff and my family's stuff, and what I should do with it.

Here's some advice to make your spring-cleaning and organizing more effective:

- Decide how much cleaning and organizing you need.
- Schedule the work. You may work best by dividing work incrementally or doing it in a big chunk, but build it into your schedule.
- To avoid getting overwhelmed, do obvious areas first (surfaces and the floor throughout the home), and do not get bogged down in too much detail work too early.
- Tackle drawers full of junk or bottomless files later, room by room.
- Remember that now is not the time to finish that unfinished project.
- When you work through things, create piles of items that need to be put away in that room, and then put them away.
- Be ruthless when you decide what to keep and not to keep. Stick to items that you need and use. Get rid of things that have been sitting around gathering dust.
- Art, knick-knacks or mementoes should only be kept to the few that you find meaningful or beautiful.
- All things in your home should have a place. For easy storing and retrieval, remember to label boxes, files and shelves.
- If the organizing work you need to do is overwhelming, break the job down and tackle it piece by piece. You may seek help, but set the rules or you'll be forever searching for stuff, or "reorganizing."

When cleaning, do not get waylaid by old photos or poems you wrote in high school.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Contemporary design comes to life at FirstHome Destination Drive to create a model suite that shows off how much harmony can be achieved between modern and traditional designs.

Seen here are some photos of FirstHome Destination Drive at Winston Churchill Boulevard and Destination Drive.

Built by The Daniels Corporation and situated at the corner of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Destination Drive, the development features condominium suites and townhomes designed with first-time homebuyers clearly in mind.

Stephanie Dimopoulos, director of decor at The Daniels Corporation, says the goal with the 812-square-foot one bedroom plus den model suite was to showcase the best principles of contemporary design.

"Contemporary is a mix of modern and traditional. It keeps in line with the whole feel of a clean space, mixed with a little bit of softness from the traditional side," Dimopoulos said.

Neutral tones, particularly browns ranging from espresso tones to creamy chocolate shades dominate the space to keep things simple and clean, with delicate splashes of colour peppered throughout on elements like artwork and cushions to keep the overall design feeling warm and inviting.

Dimopoulos says a neutral colour base can actually lead to a more sophisticated and striking overall effect.

"You need to be able to introduce some colour into a space but it can be very overwhelming when you're hit with the sensory overload of too much colour. We've kept things somewhat neutral so those hints of colour elevate the space and create some visual interest," Dimopoulos said.

In the kitchen, caramel tones in the floor tiles served as a basis for tonal choices while in the bedroom bright whites and intelligent accessory choices make the most of natural light entering the room.

"We've brightened up the space by keeping things quite light. The lamps, having glass bases, don't take up any visual space — it's almost like they're weightless," Dimopoulos said.

Homes at the development go on sale this Saturday| at 8 a.m. sharp and The Daniels Corporation is offering five free appliances with the purchase of each unit.

The lowdown

- FirstHome Destination Drive
- Builder: The Daniels Corporation
- danielsfirsthome.ca
- Phone: 905-814-0123
- Available starting this Sat., Mar. 27
- Sizes & Pricing: Condo suites from studio size to three bedroom plus den, one-, two- and three-storey townhomes, all starting from $139,900

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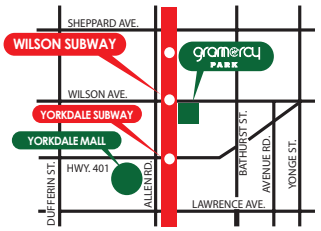

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Will HST slow down new home market?

RooftopSurfing

Stephen Dupuis

metronews.ca/rooftopsurfing

There's been no shortage of analysts who have suggested that the housing market will slump in the second half of this year due to the implementation of the HST effective July 1, 2010. I tend to disagree and I'll tell you why.

I'm not sure whether these analysts are thinking that demand is being pulled forward by buyers trying to beat the HST or that demand will simply evaporate after July 1 due to higher house prices.

If higher prices are the concern, it's very important to note that up to $400,000, the HST is fully offset by rebates and input tax credits. Above that price threshold, the $24,000 rebate substantially cushions the impact of the HST through the middle price ranges.

Where the HST does start to bite is in the higher price ranges, but that's obviously a less price-sensitive buyer and a much smaller market segment.

As for beating the HST, the reality is that homebuyers have not been able to beat the HST since June 18, 2009, which is the day the Ontario government announced that any homes purchased after that date would be subject to HST unless delivered no later than June 30, 2010. Note that homes or condos purchased before that date are exempt regardless of when they close.

Believe it or not, the HST has been in effect for nearly nine months on new homes, yet buyers have apparently been more influenced by great prices and great interest rates, making their decisions on a bottom-line basis and not getting all hung-up about the HST. I don't see this changing after July 1, 2010, which is why I don't buy the second-half slow-down theory.

That said, I would reiterate to potential new homebuyers that they may see "beat the HST" advertisements by builders for inventory units that they have in completed condominium buildings or even low-rise projects where the builder chose to build-out unsold units while the workers were onsite rather than bring them back on a piecemeal basis later on. As long as the unit can close by June 30, 2010, you've got yourself a deal.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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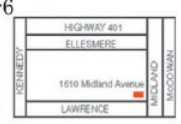

Creative storage for spring cleaning

DecorMoment

Karl Lohnes

metronews.ca/decormoment

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Be creative when finding extra storage space in your home.

I recently visited a friend's condo who showed me a spare bedroom that she had transformed into a large dressing room. In her magical room she could have shoes, hats, belts, jewellery and all of her clothing on display. Most of us can't afford such luxuries as extra rooms, time or the money to create such an extravegancy for our wardrobe. There are however a few places around the house that can offer up organized storage to keep our lives a bit more orderly, especially as we all start cleaning up this spring.

Bedroom:

Adding floor-to-ceiling, built-in cabinetry on each side of your bed will replace night tables and offer as much storage as four dressers. Keep the cabinetry open at bed height for easy access to a lamp, alarm clock and books.

Add a second hanging rod in the closet. It will double the hanging space for shirts, pants and jackets.

Install an extra shelf above the top rack in the closet; its a great place to hide away out of season shoes and accessories.

Kitchen:

Filling a wall with decorative floating shelves can display attractive baskets, ginger jars and containers for storage.

Got a blank wall? Try adding some additional cabinetry for storage. Glass doors on top will make them look lighter and less bulky.

Spare bedroom:

Consider a murphy bed; they are great for tucking out of sight when guests are not around and make the room look larger.

If you are not using the closet for clothing, consider turning it into a home office. A few built-in shelves and a simple electrical installation can give you a work station that can be hidden behind doors.

Attic space in a house or 'bonus den' in condos:

As long as you can add a closet you can have a bedroom! I love the open closet project (pictured).

A built-in desk with shelving above will add vertical storage and make use of those weird, unusable spaces.

Don't know where to start? I suggest calling a closet organizer to come for a visit to your home. They will access the space you've got and create an organized oasis for you and all your stuff. Californiaclosets.com is a good place to start as they have professionals in every major city.

Karl Lohnes is passionate about good decor and wants to help you have a beautiful home; no matter what your budget or style.

Cleaning house, the Vileda way

SPRING CLEANING Vileda is celebrating a slew of anniversaries for its products just in time for spring-cleaning. When you buy one of the following items, you get a chance at winning quite an interesting vacation package, read on for details.

The Vileda Super Twist Mop turns 30 this year. It was Canada's first non-woven sting mop and is currently the No. 1 selling mop in Canada.

This year, the Oskar Broom celebrates its 25th anniversary. The angled broom's bristles are made of recycled plastic bottles making it a popular choice for the environmentally conscious spring cleaner.

Vildea's Fibro Contact Mop is now 15 years old. Its trapezoidal shape and cotton-microfibre blend make it great for cleaning and it's machine washable as well.

For more info. on Vileda products and the Anniversary Celebration, visit Vileda.ca.

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Biddell and K-OS team up

One of Canada's hottest designers Evan Biddell will team up with multi-platinum artist K-OS for the first-ever "Seeking Glamour" event on April 1 at the Courthouse (57 Adelaide St. E.). The 10 p.m. event will be a celebration of fashion and music. METRO NEWS SERVICES

PREVIEW
Toronto Fashion Week

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

The *sophisticate*

Designer Dixon celebrates 15 years

David Dixon, 2009

Barbie by David Dixon, 2009

Barbie by David Dixon, 2009

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

David Dixon is, without a doubt, a Canadian success story.

But the Toronto-based designer, whose eponymous signature label of sophisticated women's wear is celebrating its 15th anniversary, hasn't let it go to his head.

For Dixon, the journey has been slow and steady. "It's a funny career," he says of fashion design. "It's not one where you want to plateau. You always want to keep going and going." And that's exactly what he's doing.

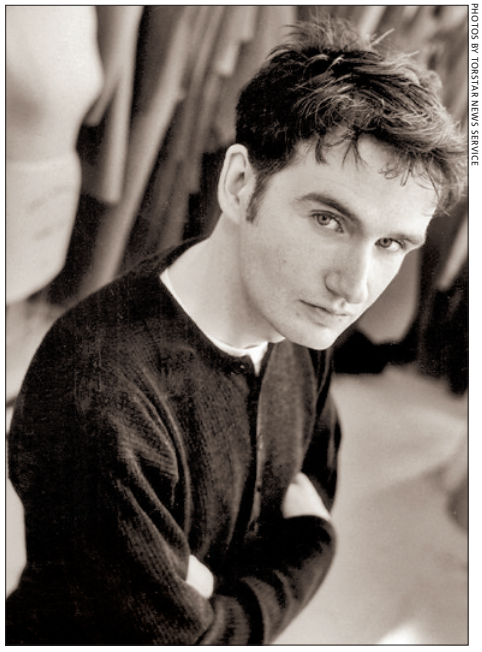
Aside from his classic signature label, which has expanded beyond Canada's borders to Asia, Europe and the Middle East, there's his collection of footwear and handbags for Town Shoes, and his Barbie by David Dixon collection.

Launched last year after Mattel approached him to create a line of Barbie-inspired women's clothing in honour of the iconic doll's 50th anniversary, it was intended to be a limited-edition collection, but was such a hit, it's being continued. "They're wearable, sort of nostalgic pieces that allow me to have a little more fun," explains the soft-spoken designer.

Dixon's first brush with fashion came via the TV. It was while watching The Love Boat as a nine-year-old that the Torontonian first laid eyes on the exquisite creations of Geoffrey Beene, Halston, Bob Mackie and Gloria Vanderbilt — all of whom he credits with influencing his chosen career.

"All of a sudden, this world of fashion opened up to me because it looked so glamorous," he says. The next day, Dixon began drawing clothes. In high school, he excelled in home economics. "The cooking part, I didn't really care for," he quips. "But sewing came naturally to me, the passion to build clothes."

Following fashion studies at Ryerson, Dixon apprenticed with Alfred Sung before setting up a studio in his parents' basement and launching his first collection in 1995. "I got press, but I didn't sell a single stitch because I didn't understand you had to actually research your product, figure out how it's going to be placed. I just thought you made clothes, put them on models and you're ready to go," he explains.



PHOTOS BY TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto-based designer David Dixon.

> **"I love texture... Fabric has always been my main source of inspiration."**

Since then, he's developed a devoted clientele. "She's a sophisticated women, a working professional who likes fashion with a twist and doesn't want to feel she's wearing a trend from head-to-toe," says Dixon.

One aspect of his exquisitely tailored clothing that women love is his use of luxurious fabrics. "I love texture. I love mixing textures and layering," he says. "Fabric has always been my main source of inspiration. The first thing you respond to is either colour or texture. I generally go for the textural aspect."

As for the future, Dixon has no plans of slowing down. "I'll keep doing this as long as every season still feels fresh," he says. "You have to enjoy what you're doing."

On the runway...

- David Dixon's fall 2010 collections for both his eponymous label and his Barbie label will hit the runway at the Allstream Centre at Exhibition Place on April 1 during Toronto Fashion Week. For more information, visit lgfashionweek.ca.

MOKQ PHOTO

▶ Ishie

On the catwalk....

Many of the gorgeous young things modelling the latest designs at Fashion Week are homegrown talent on the very cusp of superstardom.

We spoke with the three up-and-comers who will be marching down the catwalks next week for some of Canada's top designers.

Ishie, 20, born in China, now resides in Toronto

Q **Who are your favourite designers?**

A Evan Biddell (is one of my favourite designers). I love his style and his attitude towards fashion. I love how he uses the fabric to bring clothes alive. He did a great job last season and I look forward to seeing his next collection.

Taras Koltun, 17, born in Siberia, immigrated to Toronto at age 12

▶ Taras

Q **How does fashion influence your life?**

A One of the major pluses to being a model is when designers give you clothes from their shows! This has drastically changed my fashion sense — going from a high school student in Mississauga one day to castings in different cities around the world. And the girls like it too!

JOSEPH SARACENO PHOTO

▶ Frances

Frances, 16, lives in Toronto

Q **Do you have a favourite Toronto catwalk moment?**

A It would have to be walking in Sunny Fong's show for his Vawk line last season because it was my first runway show and the venue at the Art Gallery of Ontario was beautiful.

Q **What do you love about Toronto Fashion Week?**

A I love how Toronto Fashion Week brings everyone in the industry together to admire the hard work that goes into the fashion industry.

HEATHER BUCHAN/ FOR METRO CANADA

Barbie in her LBD
To celebrate LG Fashion Week and the launch of the Barbie Basics line (featuring dolls in little black dresses (LBD), 15 Canadian fashion icons styled dolls that will be on display at the Barbie booth next week. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Fashion's controversy queen

FDCC president Robin Kay is the force behind the catwalk

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

Robin Kay sits back on a white leather sofa at the Fashion Design Council of Canada's headquarters in Liberty Village and sighs.

"The gods are laughing," Kay quips. "Fashion Week is sort of plunked into the holy wars between Passover and Easter," she explains of the timing of the latest Toronto Fashion Week, beginning on Sunday, which she reigns over as president of the FDCC.

Kay is in the midst of the frenetic final preparations for the event's 22nd season — which runs until April 1 — where Canadian designers will unveil their fall 2010 collections. It's also the event that buyers, media, celebrities and fashionistas flock to twice a year.

Since leaving the world of retail and taking over the FDCC's top job in 2000, the 60-year-old mother of three has been instrumental in boosting Toronto's fashion profile across North America and abroad.

Along the way, she's also helped launch the careers of many Canadian designers, including Thien Le. And under Kay's influence, Toronto Fashion Week has become the second largest fashion week in North America, following New York.

But her success has come with its fair share of controversy. Branded by some as a tyrant, Kay is notorious for having a fiery temper. Of her detractors, who call her a tyrant, she says, "There are people that support you. There are people that don't support you. And then there's the ones that support you and don't. Almost every move I make is marked and questioned."

This year's theme is The Power of Style

Whatever people's opinions of her, no one can deny that Kay has grown fashion week from a disjointed series of venues scattered around the city and attended by a few hundred people to a unified single venue, attracting thousands.

"There's a real calling card for the industry now that it's known very well outside Canada," says Kay of fashion week. "It's really nice to see everyone hysterically happy and showing up for it. There's just a lot of magic. I love that."

Kay has always created a theme for each event, next week's being The Power of Style. "I like to have a theme because a it brings everybody together and it's identifiable," she says. "Fashion is to be taken seriously."

Of the secrets to her success, she remains coy. "I'm not ready to reveal the secrets," she murmurs. "Once I pass the torch, maybe I will."

Come Sunday, when the lights come up and the first models hit the runway at the Allstream Centre at Exhibition Place, Kay — who's credited with the ability to spot trends and stay ahead of them — will already be planning the next event: October Fashion Week. "My eyes are really upon what can be better for the next season," she says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Now in her 10th year on the job, Fashion Design Coucil of Canada president Robin Kay, pictured left, has been instrumental in helping boost Toronto's fashion profile both here and abroad.

FRONT ROW IN TORONTO

GET READY fashionistas, LG Fashion Week takes centre stage on Sunday with week-long runway shows. Designers will be working hard, showcasing their best in wears. Working even harder to be seen will be celebrities gracing the front rows. Some of the star power that warmed up the seats at last year's fashion week were:

▶ Dragon Den's Arlene Dickinson

▶ Comedian Howie Mandel

▶ Little Mosque on the Prairie actor Sitara Hewitt

▶ Canada's first lady Laureen Harper

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ENZA ANDERSON

Runway shows

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
- IZMA, 8 p.m.
- The Party of Style I, featuring DJ Honey Dijon, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 29
- Gaudet, 4 p.m.
- Jules Power, 5 p.m.
- Preloved, 6 p.m.
- School of Fashion, Ryerson University, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
- Orange by Angela Chan, 3 p.m.
- Saniya Khan, 4 p.m.
- Zoran Dobric, 5 p.m.
- LOVAS Wesley Badanjak, 6 p.m.
- Pat McDonagh, 7 p.m.
- Lundstrom, 8 p.m.
- Evan Biddell, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
- The Heart Truth Show, 3 p.m.
- Dimitri-Chris, 4 p.m.
- Katrina Tuttle, 5 p.m.
- Jessica Biffi, 5:30 p.m.
- Attitude, 6:30 p.m.
- Andy The-Anh, 7:30 p.m.
- Pink Tartan, 8:30 p.m.
- Joe Fresh Style, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
- Coccolily, 3 p.m.
- BASCH by Brandon, 4 p.m.
- RUDSAK, 6 p.m.
- Comrags, 7 p.m.
- David Dixon, 8 p.m.
- Bustle, 9:30 p.m.

New to the TO scene: Orange by Angela Chen

JORDANA DIVON
for Metro Canada

UP-AND-COMING At first glance, it looks like a fashion misnomer.

Because there's nothing remotely fruit-coloured in the new Orange by Angela Chen collection. In fact, you'll be hard pressed to find anything but structured, minimalist black and white pieces when Vancouver-based designer Angela Chen debuts her line at next week's LG Fashion Week.

"The story is, Orange has my name in it: 'Or,' and 'Ange.' It's what my family and friends have always called me," says Chen with a laugh.

It may stem from a childhood nickname, but the wordplay in Orange perfectly captures Chen's predilection toward mixing mediums. The 26-year-old designs almost exclusively in black and white, and says her clothes are a contrast between "harsh New York sophistication and the soft, organic feel of the West Coast."

Fall/winter 2010 looks from Orange by Angela Chen.

Fans like actresses Chloe Sevigny and Kirsten Dunst have snapped up the talented young designer's sleek jumpers and tailored, minimalist coats. And although she only graduated from New York's Parsons New School of Design in 2007, Chen turned heads right out of the gate.

"There was a store in SoHo that expressed interest in selling my thesis collection, and so I thought maybe I should have a brand," she says. "And slowly other stores started approaching. I was selling at Oak, and then a Brooklyn boutique called Old Hollywood. Now I have a number of stores carrying my line on the West Coast too."

That momentum resulted in her first label, OrangeNYC. But after six years in New York, Chen decided to move back home. "New York was a place of real growth and maturity, but in Vancouver I'm more relaxed, and not on the edge every day like I was there," she says.

While her time in New York inspired edgier, bolder lines, the designer says Vancouver's laid back vibe has crept back into her work.

"For this new collection, I'm going to be showcasing a number of chunky hand-knits which I hand knitted myself," she says. "The designs have the East Coast feel, but the chunkiness and the structure of the knits has a West Coast feel."

Chen's fall/winter 2010 collection debuts next Tuesday at Toronto's LG Fashion Week.

Clothing for Haiti
Canadian owned clothing manufacturer Eleventh Floor Apparel has teamed up with Centre of International Studies and Cooperation to donate over 900 garments to the Haitian Disaster Relief. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Growing fond of nature

The spring One of a Kind Show and Sale pays tribute to nature this year with a showcase that includes sustainable fashions, food, beauty and home decor. Eco-friendly designers from across Canada will feature a diverse line-up of fashions, accessories and beauty products. This will include cardboard necklaces (pictured left) by Pasapapier. The show takes place March 31 to April 4. Tickets are $12 ($10 online at oneofakindshow.com). METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Celebrity arm candy

Designer's whimsical leather bags are a Hollywood hit

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

"Almost every store is asking for an exclusive, even Saks, as a way of getting people in the door"
Handbag designer Rebecca Minkoff

"It always, I think, starts for me with a pretty idea, and then we work backwards, how do we make this practical," confesses handbag designer Rebecca Minkoff in an interview with Metro.

"Sometimes honestly, I'll admit, I'm not the most practical."

We're talking about her first bag, the Morning After, her signature, designed at the request of friend Jenna Elfman, and the one that launched Minkoff as a handbag designer of celebrity note. Still the best-seller, and one of an assortment now available at Holt Renfrew, it's actually her most practical, with several tidy pockets, room for sleepover essentials, and a style esthetically appropriate for office and out-of-office hours.

As an example of her design whimsy when she'd first created the Morning After, she points out the shiny D-rings she'd added only as details to the sides just because she liked the shape. "I had stores calling saying 'you shipped it without the shoulder strap,'" she recalls. There was no strap because Minkoff doesn't like the look of one with the bag, but she had to concede. "It became 'if you want this bag to sell, it needs to have a shoulder strap.'"

Rebecca Minkoff Leopard Lovenote Clutch, $475

Rebecca Minkoff Morning After Bag, $715

GETTY IMAGES

Designer Rebecca Minkoff, left, with friend and actress Jenna Elfman, who was the inspiration behind Minkoff's popular Morning After Bag.

Minkoff's work adorns the arms of the pretty-and-famous such as Rachel McAdams, Hilary Duff and Sarah Jessica Parker and many, many more. She's had no formal training in bag design; it all began with sewing when she was eight. At 13 she made her bat mitzvah dress, and prom and graduation dresses followed.

Her label debuted with clothing in 2001 and has expanded to include her oft-photographed bag collection as well as bracelets and wallets, and an intense schedule of merchandise deliveries that includes several retailer exclusives.

"Almost every store is asking for an exclusive, even Saks, as a way of getting people in the door," she explains. "If you're carried in all these places, the only way to do it is to cater to each store. So now I have exclusives with every store."

Her material of choice is Italian leather for its "magic," but an eye-catching blue — another signature — Ethiopian tie-dyed-by-hand leather has found its way into her summer 2010 collection. So has microfibre, in response to customer requests for something at a lower price point. "I was able to create the look of a faux python that looks real, but it's fabric, and brought the price down almost $150 to $200 at retail. I think my customers really appreciated that," she says.

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources: vintage bags, flea markets, and old photos. Several in her current collection sprang from the details in motorcycle jackets, such as metal pyramid studs and bold zippers. "That led me to motorcycles and the bags that people have on motorcycles, that are attached to them," she says. "There's a whole group that's coming up later that came from that."

Alexander Wang and Balenciaga are the two designers she names when asked which by-others bags she admires. "I don't wear any of them," she admits. "But I'm always like 'MAN, they did it AGAIN!'"

Linear Stud Rocker in ivory and black, $350 each

Linear Stud Flame, $595

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Mini Rikki in turquoise, $585

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Correction

In last Thursday's Style section, Covergirl makeup pro Greg Wencel's title was wrongly identified within the Elle magazine content. Metro apologuises for the error. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

A budget-friendly spring update

2-in-1! This heather gray Topshop sweatshirt ($55) combines the sporty trend with military-like epaulets. topshop.com

Asos suede duffle bag, $60. asos.com

Asos cut-out back dress, $65. asos.com

H&M jacket. $30, hm.com

2-in-1! H&M's earth-friendly dress ($30) marries spring's pastel colour palette with body con dressing, which is hugely popular right now.

KENYA HUNT/ FOR METRO CANADA

A still shot of the Nada 3-D game interface where the player dresses a fembot in Nada's fall 2010 collection.

Nada collection goes 3-D

FASHION FIRST Canadian designer Nada Shepherd has decided to forgo the runway in favour of the big screen by bringing her latest creations to life in reel form.

The creative director of Nada has opted out of showcasing her new designs at the upcoming edition of Toronto's LG Fashion Week to be a part of what's been billed as a Canadian fashion first: A short 3-D film featuring her fall 2010 collection.

Shepherd said the idea to do a film seemed like a natural evolution since she first decided to start incorporating videos into her runway shows.

"I thought that this was the season where video would be appropriate because the fall collection does have a futuristic element to the styling and silhouette," she said in a recent phone interview.

A special premiere screening of Future Fashion/Fashion Future was held Wednesday night at the Scotiabank Theatre in downtown Toronto.

The seven-minute film takes on the feel of an interactive video game as viewers are able to see the transformation of a female warrior suiting up for battle against her on-screen nemesis.

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New Moon a big seller
Summit Entertainment's strategy to release its much-anticipated New Moon DVD on a Friday night — just as the studio did for the release of Twilight's DVD — is paying off handsomely. The studio reports that the DVD of The Twilight Saga: New Moon sold four million units over the weekend. EW.COM

Entertainment

Moving on
Katherine Heigl has left Grey's Anatomy. "I am done," the actress tells Entertainment Weekly. "Everyone had been working really hard to find an amicable and gracious way of letting go and moving on." PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

Breakthrough for the Biebs

Justin Bieber

Album: My World 2.0
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●○○

IF YOU HAVEN'T felt it already, get ready for a total Justin Bieber onslaught. The Stratford, Ont., native's new disc is the perfect mainstream radio listen — a mix of R&B and pop, with lyrics about teenage love. It's not bad, in that it does what it's supposed to — rope in teenage girls with infectious, but not at all challenging, sounds. The worst parts about this aren't Bieber, it's Ludacris sounding old with a terrible rap on Baby and Sean Kingston's awkward reggae-tinged additions to Eenie Meenie. Bieber's at his best when he sticks to what he knows — singing straight-up teeny pop.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Goldfrapp

Album: Head First
Label: Mute
Rating: ●●●○○

AFTER GOING FOLK for 2008's pastoral Seventh Tree, Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have relocated their synths and gone back to their electronic pop roots. But Head First isn't just a return — the duo sounds hungry for the commercial success that abandoned them on their last album. The songs smack of Kylie Minogue were she produced by ELO's Jeff Lynne, leaving Goldfrapp with one platform heel in the '70s and one jelly in the '80s. The simplicity of the songs though disappoints and ultimately undermines their reputation as shrewd songwriters, leaving Head First as a vain attempt to reclaim their place atop the charts.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Barenaked Ladies

Album: All in Good Time
Label: Records/EMI
Rating: ●●●○○

ANYBODY WHO ACTUALLY thought the Barenaked Ladies would be as good a band without Steven Page was simply dreaming. Page was half the sound, half the spirit, half of everything Barenaked. This is not to say the current fourpiece is only half the band that we grew to know and love. The one thing nice about Page's departure is that it has pushed the songwriting talents of Jimmy Creegan (I Saw It) and Kevin Hearn (Another Heartbreak) more to the front. Still they are no match for Page's soaring vocals. In reality, this is now Ed Robertson's band. His opening single You Run Away, written directly at his old friend Page, is the album's strongest track. It's a great track, showing an unfamiliar dark side of Robertson. Unfortunately, nothing else on the CD has the same impact.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Justin Bieber received assists from Ludacris and Sean Kingston on his new album, My World 2.0, but the teen sensation is at his best when he sticks to singing straight-up teeny pop.

Rufus Wainwright

Album: All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●●○

RUFUS WAINRIGHT HAS always mined his personal life for material, so it's natural that he'd deal with his famous mother's cancer and recent death on his latest record. He doesn't cloud his terrible ordeal in his familiar over-the-top pop — instead he delivers 12 gut-wrenching tunes with only a piano and his voice. The final track, Zebulon, is the most explicit song about the turmoil in his life, "my mom's in the hospital, my sister's at the opera, I'm in love, but let's not talk about it," he sings. The record is uncomfortable, haunting, magical and brilliant.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

She&Him

Album: Volume Two
Label: Merge
Rating: ●●●●½

THE PAIRING OF M. Ward and actress Zooey Deschanel could have gone so wrong, as so many actor-turned singer releases do, but their 2008 effort, Volume One, was one of the most well-received indie albums of the year. The followup is another excellent release, featuring a bubbly mix of Americana, pop and rock. Thieves is a gorgeous alt-country tune, while In The Sun is just a fun, endearing, upbeat listen with a fantastic singalong chorus.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Music Twitter

• Metro Music is giving away four passes to the Black Eyed Peas' One Night Only Concert Event, which screens live at Cineplex theatres March 30. Follow us on Twitter for details @TheMetroMusic

Sri Lanka bars Akon over Buddha video uproar

PEOPLE Sri Lanka says it won't issue a visa for R&B singer Akon for a planned concert next month, following outrage over his video showing scantily clad women near a Buddha statue.

The government made the decision because the video "triggered a lot of disappointment among Buddhists all over the world" and because some of Akon's lyrics are not suitable for public performance, the government information department said.

The Senegalese singer's video Sexy Chick shows women in bikinis dancing at a pool party with a Buddha statue occasionally visible in the background.

On Monday, protesters hurled stones at the office of a private broadcaster which is the media sponsor for the planned April 24 concert. Four workers were injured in the attack and the building was damaged.

Concert promoter Lasantha Samarasing said he will ask the government to reconsider its decision, adding that the concert would boost tourism and help the country's economy. "We are going to appeal and I hope there will be a favourable answer," Samarasinghe said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Scream again

Scream 4 is a go. Dimension Films announced the fourth iteration will start production this spring. Kevin Wes Craven is directing, and Neve Campbell, David Arquette and Courteney Cox have all signed on to reprise their roles. EW.COM

Hot Tub a pool of tacky delights

Corddry wades into world of legwarmers and Baby Soft

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Whether he's bickering with Jon Stewart on The Daily Show or dropping delightful racist one-liners in Harold And Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay, Rob Corddry has become a comedy staple in recent years.

The man with the comically enhanced hairline returns this week with Hot Tub Time Machine, a lovingly stupid comedy about a group of friends who travel back to the '80s in (wait for it) a hot tub. Not exactly the most conventional concept for a major studio release, but one that tickled the comedian when he first read the script.

"I was kind of hooked from title page," Corddry tells Metro. "It said, Hot Tub Time Machine: Based On The Incredible True Story. Definitely my sensibility."

The film gave Corddry the opportunity to take a trip back to the time of legwarmers and a child-friendly Michael Jackson.

The '80s are recreated in all their tacky glory, which was a sight the actor thought he'd never see again.

"It was pretty surreal," recalled Corddry. "There were times looking out over a sea of extras dressed in fluorescent clothing where I could almost smell the Love's Baby Soft, a perfume from the '80s that smelled like baby powder and defined my junior high experience. There was a definite sense memory recall going on."

Of course, Hot Tub Time Machine doesn't just capture the sights and smells of the '80s, but also the tone of the raunchy R-rated comedies that defined the era. It was a style that Corddry admits was a major influence on the project from the beginning.

"That was definitely always there. Probably even more so before we actually added a story to it," quipped the actor. "The first version of the script was kind of a free-for-all before Cusack and [director] Steve Pink came in and tamed it."

The film marks the third comedic collaboration for Pink and Cusack who previously co-wrote the screenplays for Grosse Point Blank and High Fidelity. Corddry is quick to acknowledge that their laid back working relationship allowed for a lot of freedom on set.

"The script was always in flux. Like the constitution, it was a living document and was constantly being rewritten. They really encouraged improvisation, so it was a very collaborative atmosphere."

From left, Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry, John Cusack and Clark Duke find themselves back in the '80s in the comedy Hot Tub Time Machine.

Hot Tub Time Machine opens tomorrow

Movie feature

All the improv inevitably led to plenty of hilarious material hitting the cutting room floor, which is sure to be salvaged for DVD.

"There is tons of deleted material and it's all good stuff," promised Cordrry. "Usually they delete scenes that should be deleted, but in our case it was really important to Steve to get this movie down to '90s minutes. I'm a little sick of these two hour long comedies. So our movie is just in-and-out in more ways than one."

The film is certainly a fast, entertaining, and relentlessly funny experience. Audiences should be pleased with all the dirty jokes and R-rated shenanigans, but don't expect to see any extended cuts on DVD.

Rob Corddry assured us that nothing was too filthy to be included: "I'm sure they'll try to market the DVD as unrated, but I can't imagine making this movie any more unrated than it already is."

With a little Help from best friends forever

PRODUCTION Kathryn Stockett and Tate Taylor have been best friends all their lives. Now they're collaborating on a major motion picture.

DreamWorks Studios recently slated Stockett's firecracker of a first novel, The Help, for production. Taylor will be at the helm of his first major studio film.

Watch out Hollywood.

"Tate is trouble and put it in capital letters," Stockett said. "He is so much fun. We had a ball growing up. We got in so much trouble all the time. I was always getting grounded when Tate was there."

The Help was a publishing success story of 2009 and remains on bestseller lists well into 2010. It's spending its 50th week on the New York Times list of best-sellers at No. 2 and has been No. 1. More than 1.9 million copies have been printed.

The book tells the story of a group of black domestic maids in 1960s Jackson, Miss., who band together to tell the sometimes sad, sometimes triumphant stories of lives spent toiling for upper class Southern whites. The Help is both uproariously funny and poignant, resonating with readers across the country.

"She didn't even have a publisher yet and I said, 'You've got to let me option this."
Filmmaker Tate Taylor on author and friend Kathryn Stockett

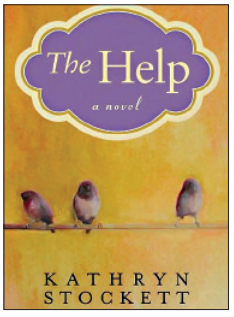
The book seems ready-made for a film and Taylor saw the possibilities early on when Stockett showed him her manuscript. The creator of a well-received short film, Chicken Party, and 2009's Pretty Ugly People, he was looking for a larger vehicle to develop, and his best friend had just the material for him.

"She didn't even have a publisher yet and I said, 'You've got to let me option this,'" Taylor said in an interview from New York, where he was having casting interviews. "And she said, 'I'm going to hold you to this. It's going to be so much fun.' And then, of course, she got her agent and I was the last person in the world they wanted."

Taylor had a few things going for him, though, including his relationship with producer and filmmaker Chris Columbus, who greatly admired Chicken Party. Columbus, it turns out, is tight with Steven Spielberg, a co-founder of DreamWorks.

Columbus wanted to work with Taylor, but Taylor didn't immediately have a project, he said. Then, The Help came along.

"Nothing would ever stick and finally I told him about, The Help," said Taylor, who began working on the script two years ago. "And he read the script and he said, 'All right, this is the one.'"



Kathryn Stockett's bestselling book The Help is being made into a film.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

... and then there were 22

Two and a Half Men's current season will be reduced from 24 to 22 episodes, because of Charlie Sheen's stint in rehab last month, The New York Times reports. TVGUIDE.COM

Love loves to love

Jennifer Love Hewitt launches her new dating advice book

Jennifer Love Hewitt had more than a breakup on her hands when she recently split from her Ghost Whisperer co-star, Jamie Kennedy. She was about to embark on a tour promoting her new book about relationships.

"It wasn't ideal timing," the 31-year-old actress admits, laughing. "Here's my relationship book and I'm single."

Still, she has gone ahead with the publicity tour for The Day I Shot Cupid: My Name is Jennifer Love Hewitt and I'm a Love-Aholic.

And she's embracing one of its lessons: Allow yourself 72 hours to wallow after a breakup. Then move forward.

"Put your big girl pants on and move on," Hewitt tells The Associated Press.

"Seventy-two hours is an appropriate time. After that you start to smell and your friends don't want to talk to you ... It doesn't mean it fixes your feelings or takes away the sadness. You should just start to go, 'I'm OK.'"

The book also includes these tips: Accept that men will always check out other women; guys hate to spoon; and one shouldn't be overzealous with a new significant other.

There's even a section written by Kennedy himself, who assures women that most guys like their girls curvy, not stick-thin.

"My dating life has been written about really since I was 15 ... so this book is my way of saying, 'No, this is who I am and this is what I've really thought about that, and these are the things that I've done that maybe you didn't read about."

Jennifer Love Hewitt

Hewitt includes personal anecdotes, such as when she made his-and-her toiletry kits for a guy she was dating. She thought it was cute; he found it scary.

The book also sets the record straight on parts of Hewitt's relationship history, which has been played out in the press.

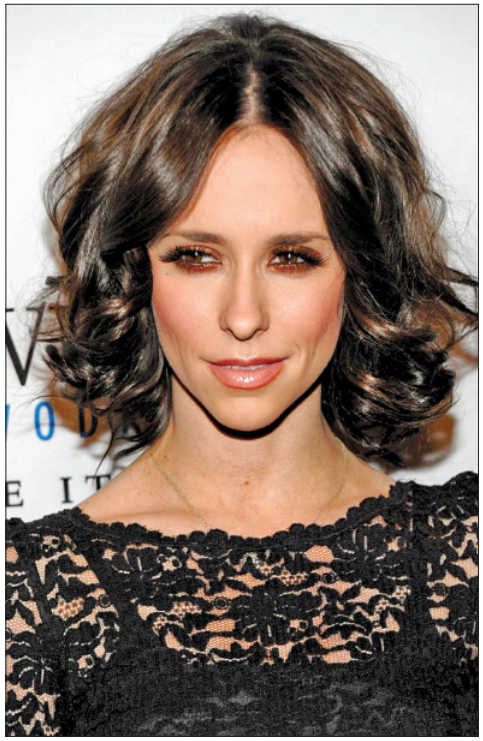
"My dating life has been written about really since I was 15 ... so this book is my way of saying, 'No, this is who I am and this is what I've really thought about that, and these are the things that I've done that maybe you didn't read about."

Despite her recent difficulties, Hewitt says there wouldn't be, say, Shakespeare without love-aholics like herself.

"Dreaming about romance is not any different than having a vision board, which is the big thing out there that you're supposed to do ... to put it out there in the universe."

The book is published by Hyperion, a division of ABC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP PHOTO/DAN STEINBERG

Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt arrives at the Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang book launch party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

Sex in a distinctively different city

FILM Sarah Jessica Parker and her Manhattan gal pals are taking their sexy ways to a new city.

Sex and the City 2, due in theatres May 27, sends Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon on a trip to the Middle East as they visit Abu Dhabi.

While the sequel allows Parker's Carrie Bradshaw a chance to spend quality time with her chic posse, it also gave the actresses more opportunity to hang together than they've had before.

"This is probably the most time the characters have ever spent together," Parker said in an interview at last week's ShoWest convention for theatre owners, where distributor Warner Bros. premiered a new Sex and the City 2 trailer.

"Simultaneously, it was the first time that the four actors left the country, lived together, worked together for almost eight weeks solid — and when I say lived together, I mean breakfast, lunch and dinner together every single night," Parker continued. "We were removed from family and friends, and we've never had that kind of time together, because we always went home to friends and family and children and husbands and wives. It is the most fun and the hardest we've ever worked together."

Sarah Jessica Parker

The foursome needed to work hard to top the first big-screen spinoff of the TV series, which far exceeded industry expectations two years ago when the movie went on to top $150 million at the box office.

The sequel has Cattrall's Samantha Jones taking her friends along to Abu Dhabi, where her movie star ex has shot an action film. The trailer reveals that Carrie finds temptation in the desert when she runs into her own ex from the TV show, Aidan (John Corbett).

While much of the film takes place in Manhattan, the Middle East action presents a culture clash for the four fashionista.

"How do you sort of live up to the idea of fashion being a component of this particular franchise and be in a culture that requires you to be covered, and how to be sexy or lack a sort of chaste quality?" Parker said.

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Patrick McManus. Photo by Shin Sugino. Creative: STCworks.ca

Scrubs to be scrubbed

America's zaniest medical comedy, Scrubs, will take its final breaths at the end of its ninth season, according to its original star Zach Braff. The actor/doctor called the time-of-death at 3:23 on March 23. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Now it's 3-D CatholicTV

BROADCASTING Avatars and Mad Hatters are already performing before American audiences in 3-D, and Shrek is coming soon. Now, a United States Catholic television network is throwing priests into the mix.

CatholicTV debuted 3-D programs yesterday in an effort to reach younger people and to make the faith message more vivid. The network posted several 3-D shows on the Internet, released its monthly magazine in 3-D — complete with glasses — and said it will eventually broadcast some programs in 3-D.

CatholicTV's director, the Rev. Robert Reed, said he'd been planning to introduce 3-D well before the success of James Cameron's movie Avatar or the 3-D Alice in Wonderland."It's a way for us to show that we believe the message we have is relevant, and we're going to use every possible avenue to bring that message to people," said Reed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George had a curious story

Mischievous monkey came out of dangerous times

Ever wonder why Curious George is so curious? Or why the monkey hero of the Curious George children's books is so fond of travel, so prone to mischief, yet always narrowly escapes disaster?

A new exhibit at New York's Jewish Museum suggests that curious readers need look no farther than the real-life adventures of the intrepid husband-and-wife team who created the beloved character.

Hans and Margret Rey — he changed the name from Reyersbach — were German Jews living in Paris on the eve of the Nazi invasion. Two days before the Germans marched into Paris, they fled, carrying drawings for their picture books, including one about a mischievous monkey.

While the exhibit touches on the harrowing conditions they endured on their four-month flight in 1940 from France to New York, it's more about the unusually long and fertile artistic collaboration between Hans and Margret,

The exhibition features nearly 80 original drawings and vibrant watercolours for the more than 30 books the couple wrote and illustrated. The most famous, of course, is Curious George — the "good little monkey" captured in the wilds of Africa by a man in a large yellow hat and taken to the city to live in a zoo and later, the man's home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George evolved

- Originally, George was named Fifi. The book's American publisher didn't like that name for a boy monkey so he became George in the U.S. and Zozo in Britain (where it seemed disrespectful for a monkey to have the same name as the king — George VI).

AP PHOTO/THE JEWISH MUSEUM

This 1940s image shows an early version of Curious George hanging on a giraffe in the book Raffy and the 9 Monkeys.

Butch Cassidy returns to screen

SEQUEL The 1969 movie classic Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid ends with neither of the famous outlaws appearing to survive a 1908 shootout with Bolivian soldiers.

But Butch at least will ride again in a film entitled Blackthorn that begins shooting in Bolivia next month.

Justin Bieber's manager charged

ARREST Scott Braun, the manager for Canadian teen pop sensation Justin Bieber, has been charged with reckless endangerment and criminal nuisance. His lawyer says he will plead not guilty.

The arrest stems from a planned appearance near New York in November by the 16-year-old Bieber. When the crowd became unruly, police told Braun to send out a Twitter message cancelling the event.

The prosecutor says it took Braun an hour to send two tweets, but his lawyer says it took seven minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Based on comparing Rogers total number of HD program choices to other HD service providers within Rogers serviceable area. [1]Available for a limited time to customers who do not have Rogers Cable TV service. Subject to change without notice and may not be combined with any other discount. Free digital HD box with Rogers Digital TV subscription (min. 2-year term required) and relinquishment of satellite receiver and remote to Rogers. Early cancellation fee applies. Free HD PVR box also requires subscription to Rogers Home Phone and/or Rogers Hi-Speed Internet Lite or above. Installation charges may apply. TM and © 2009. Cable News Network. A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved. ™Rogers & Mobius design are trademarks of or used under license by Rogers Communications Inc. or an affiliate. © 2010 Rogers Cable Communications Inc.

CHANGES ON THE GO

STARTING APRIL 3, 2010, GO TRANSIT IS MAKING SEVERAL SYSTEM-WIDE SERVICE CHANGES TO BRING SCHEDULES IN LINE WITH ACTUAL TRAVEL TIMES AND TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF OUR RIDERSHIP.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be minor schedule adjustments to trains including some earlier departures, and changes to bus trips that connect to train service including the **12–Niagara GO Bus** route.

09 – LAKESHORE EAST GO TRAIN & BUS
A new weekday westbound train trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 6:47 a.m., serve Whitby at 6:53, Ajax at 7:01, Pickering at 7:06, then run express to Union Station arriving at 7:38 a.m.

With this new train trip, there will be schedule adjustments to other morning train trips including some earlier departures and changes to bus trips that connect to train service including the **81–Port Perry GO Bus** and the **88–Peterborough GO Bus** routes.

20–MILTON-OAKVILLE GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes to connect with the adjusted Lakeshore West trains and some trips will no longer operate.

21 – MILTON GO TRAIN
All weekday eastbound train trips will arrive into Union Station three minutes later. Departure times at other stations remain the same.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO TRAIN & BUS
The westbound 2:45 p.m. train from Union Station will now depart at 3:30 and times will be later at all stops along the route. The trip will be extended to also serve Mount Pleasant and Georgetown.

The westbound 6:45 p.m. train from Union will be extended to serve Mount Pleasant at 7:36. A connecting bus is available to Georgetown. With this change, the westbound 6:30 p.m. bus trip from Union to Mount Pleasant and the 6:35 bus trip from Union to Georgetown will no longer operate.

The eastbound 10:25 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:45 train trips from Bramalea to Union and the connecting bus trips will no longer operate. The westbound 9:40, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. trains from Union to Bramalea and the connecting bus trips will no longer operate.

These train trips will be replaced with 22 bus trips providing more frequent service.

34 – BRAMPTON LOCAL, HWY. 27 & 427 GO BUS
The weekday eastbound 3:00 p.m., 4:00 and 5:00 trips from Brampton to York Mills will no longer operate.

37 – ORANGEVILLE GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes including earlier departures to connect with the adjusted Georgetown train.

The weekday southbound 12:12 p.m. trip from Orangeville Mall will now depart at 12:35 and times will be later at all stops along the route. Customers travelling to Union Station may take a connecting bus from Brampton GO Station.

The weekday northbound 3:54 p.m. trip from Brampton Bus Terminal will now depart at 4:22 and times will be later at all stops along the route with arrival in Orangeville at 5:17. This trip connects to the 3:30 p.m. Georgetown train.

38 – BOLTON-HWY. 50 GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes including earlier departures to connect with the adjusted Georgetown train.

The weekday southbound 11:35 a.m. trip from Hwy. 50 and Columbia Way will now depart at 11:20 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route.

The weekday southbound 1:05 p.m. trip from Hwy. 50 and Columbia Way will now depart at 1:20 and times will be later at all stops along the route.

The weekday northbound 10:14 a.m. trip from Malton will now depart at 10:00 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route.

The weekday northbound 1:34 p.m. trip from Malton will now depart at 2:00, and the 3:19 p.m. trip will now depart at 4:04. Times will be later at all stops on both trips.

Customers travelling to Union Station may take a connecting bus from Malton GO Station.

40 – AIRPORT EXPRESS GO BUS
There will be minor schedule adjustments at Richmond Hill Centre and Pearson Airport. Service between Square One and Pearson will no longer operate. Customers travelling between Richmond Hill and Square One can be served by Hwy. 407 GO Bus services at the new westbound stop at Keele St. and Great Gulf Dr., or the new eastbound stop at Keele and Snidercroft. Mississauga Transit also provides service options between Square One and Pearson.

61 – RICHMOND HILL GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be earlier departures from Richmond Hill, Langstaff and Old Cummer and all train trips will arrive at Union Station three minutes later.

GO Bus service to Oriole and Old Cummer will no longer operate. Passengers can be served by the TTC.

62 – NEWMARKET "B" GO BUS
Service will be reduced to five southbound morning and five northbound afternoon trips until Friday, June 25, 2010. After June 25, GO Transit will no longer operate this route to avoid duplication of York Region Transit services in this area.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be earlier southbound train departures and arrivals at Union Station, three minutes later.

There will be minor adjustments to northbound train times between York University GO Station and Barrie South and adjusted times on connecting buses.

The weekday southbound 5:07 a.m. and 5:32 bus trips from Barrie and John St. in Bradford to Newmarket, and the northbound 12:15 a.m. bus from Newmarket to Bradford will no longer operate.

The weekday southbound 6:20 a.m. bus trip from Barrie Bus Terminal to Maple and the northbound 4:58 p.m. bus trip from Rutherford to Barrie will no longer operate.

The weekday southbound 12:45 p.m. and 1:45 bus trips from King City to Union and the weekday northbound 10:20, 11:20 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. trips from Union to King City will no longer operate.

69 – SUTTON GO BUS
The weekday northbound 4:40 p.m. trip from Newmarket GO Bus Terminal will now depart at 4:35 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route with arrival in Beaverton at 6:10 p.m.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO TRAIN
Train arrivals at Union Station will be three minutes later. Departure times at other stations remain the same.

OSHAWA GO BUS SERVICES
There will be minor schedule adjustments to some trips on the **94–Oshawa Hwy. 2**, **95–Oshawa Hwy. 2 Express** and the **96–Oshawa Hwy. 401** routes.

The weekday eastbound 6:10 p.m. trip from Scarborough Town Centre to Oshawa and the weekday westbound 7:00 a.m. and 7:40 p.m. trips from Oshawa to Scarborough Town Centre will no longer operate.

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Settling up with Oprah

Oprah Winfrey has settled a defamation lawsuit filed by a headmistress she had accused of performing poorly at her South African girls school, where some students claimed they were abused, lawyers said Tuesday.

The lawsuit by former headmistress Nomvuyo Mzamane claimed Winfrey defamed her in remarks made in the wake of the 2007 sex-abuse scandal at the school. Mzamane said she had trouble finding a job after Winfrey stated she had "lost confidence" in her and was "cleaning house from top to bottom."

A trial had been set to start next week in federal court in Philadelphia. Winfrey and several schoolgirls had been expected to testify.

A joint statement released late Tuesday by lawyers for both sides said Winfrey and Mzamane met to resolve their differences.

"The two parties met woman to woman without their lawyers and are happy that they could resolve this dispute peacefully to their mutual satisfaction," the statement said.

Winfrey was visiting her school last week when U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno refused to dismiss the lawsuit, concluding Mzamane had presented enough evidence to go to trial. Court papers suggest Mzamane is again working at a school in Africa.

A dorm matron at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls has been charged in South Africa with abusing six students. Winfrey has called the allegations crushing given her own stated history of childhood sexual abuse.

The dorm matron, Tiny Virginia Makopo, has pleaded not guilty to 14 charges. Mzamane claimed that she was never told of the sexual abuse. However, Winfrey's lawyers said in their pretrial memo this month that Mzamane failed to discipline Makopo despite her history of run-ins with students and fellow staff.

Mzamane, born in Lesotho, formerly worked at the private Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia and was living in the city when she sued two years ago. She earned $150,000 a year as Winfrey's headmistress.

Winfrey had planned to defend the case on free speech and other grounds, arguing she merely voiced her opinions.

Mzamane's lawyers, who noted Winfrey's huge media reach, contended listeners would think the remarks were based on facts she had gleaned from the school's internal investigation.

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Murdering surgeon
Kevin Kline is attached to star in an as-yet-untitled drama for HBO, Variety reports. Kline, 62, would play a cardiac surgeon who's served 15 years in prison for murdering his mistress. TVGUIDE.COM

Girl sleuth Flavia returns in new adventure

Eleven-year-old British super-sleuth Flavia de Luce has a rabid following.

There's a Flavia de Luce fan club, a Flavia de Luce adoration society, and a website devoted to the fictional girl detective, who burst onto the page in 2009 with the publication of Canadian writer Alan Bradley's debut novel, The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie.

Flavia's latest caper is The Weed That Strings the Hangman's Bag. But while Bradley, 71, is the one who dreamed up the precocious heroine in the first place, he claims to have little control over her adventures, which are set in the rolling English countryside of 1950.

"I have a lot of respect for Flavia. She knows what she's doing," Bradley said during a recent interview.

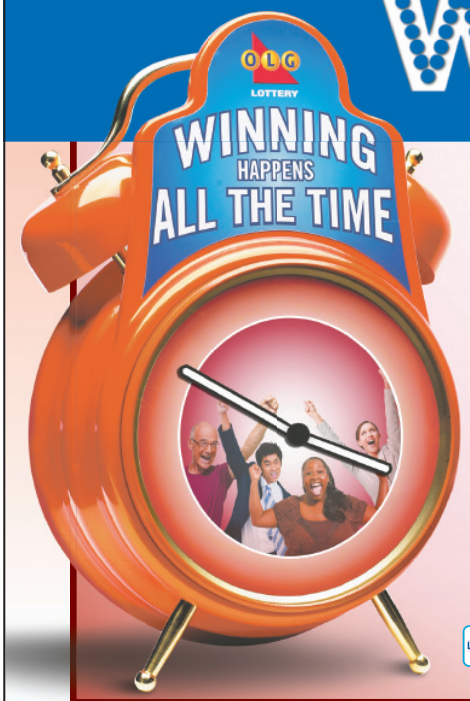
To be sure, the plucky crime-solver — who rides around the village of Bishop's Lace on her trusty bicycle Gladys and has a passion for concocting poisons in her musty chemistry lab in Buckshaw mansion — seems to have taken on a life of her own.

Sweetness has been sold to over 30 countries, and Weed recently debuted at No. 4 on the Maclean's bestseller list. The books — in the tradition of girl detectives like Nancy Drew, Trixie Belden and Harriet the Spy — have captivated readers in several languages.

Given the success of the Harry Potter movies, Flavia would seem a natural for the big screen. The author says there's been several movie offers, but he's not yet ready to relinquish control of his pint-sized private eye.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LOTTERY WINNER
Cash FOR LIFE
NELSON EMERY
CASH FOR LIFE WINNER



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Miley sings last song

Tween queen Cyrus sets music aside in favour of film

Singing was the last thing on Miley Cyrus' mind in The Last Song.

Other than a brief sing-along to a tune on a car radio, her character doesn't do any crooning, something Cyrus deliberately avoided with her first lead in a live-action film that doesn't feature musical alter-ego Hannah Montana.

"I didn't want to sing in the film. We sang in the car that once, but that doesn't really count. I didn't want to do a performance thing," said Cyrus, who also contributes two songs to the soundtrack but figures she wants to keep singing and acting separate from now on.

"I never say I'm not going to do anything. Then if I end up doing it, I'm going to get a lot of crap. 'She said she'd never ...', you know? And I don't have time for that drama and people freaking out. But most likely, I'd like to stay away from music in films and do a little something less obvious."

Music in general is going on hold for Cyrus, who said an upcoming album will be her last for at least a few years, because she wants to concentrate on big-screen roles.

Cyrus, 17, has a handful of episodes left to shoot in the final season of Hannah Montana, the Disney Channel series that made her a star. She has remained in the Disney stable for a Hannah Montana concert movie and feature film and led the voice cast with John Travolta in the studio's animated hit Bolt.

The Last Song, also from Disney, is a calculated effort by teen idol Cyrus to graduate into more grown-up territory and bring her fans along without alienating them as she moves beyond Hannah's happy world.

Cyrus' mother, Tish Cyrus, was the executive producer on The Last Song.

Cyrus' character, Ronnie, is dealing with grim issues involving her divorced parents (Greg Kinnear and Kelly Preston) as she reluctantly spends a summer with her estranged dad, a composer and pianist who would love nothing more than to see his daughter resume her own abandoned piano studies.

"I'd like to stay away from music in films and do a little something less obvious."
Miley Cyrus

Yet The Last Song also lets Ronnie put in some fun time at the beach with a hunky new beau (Liam Hemsworth, Cyrus' real-life boyfriend).

"It's a good stepping-stone. Nothing too crazy. It's mature, but it's kind of for everyone," Cyrus said.

The Last Song was written specifically for Cyrus by novelist Nicholas Sparks, whose best-selling love stories include Hollywood adaptations such as The Notebook, A Walk to Remember, Nights in Rodanthe and this year's Dear John. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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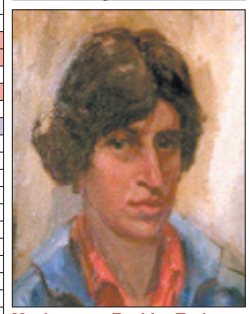
TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Party Animals		MasterWorks "Estella"		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV)		The Office (N)	Tucson	90210 (HDTV) (N)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Love, Hate and Propaganda		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	On Purpose	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Flashpoint		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Almost Heroes* ★★ (1998, Comedy) Chris Farley.				*Mars Attacks!* ★★ (1996, Comedy) Jack Nicholson.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA.					College Basketball			
	-	387	16	CBS	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA.					College Basketball			
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Access H.	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "Jacksonville"		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV)		Fringe "Jacksonville"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Elvis Lives: The 25th Anniversary Concert			Chet Atkins: Certified Guitar Player			Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vampire
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Big Mac: Inside McDonald's		Inside American Airlines: A Week in the Life				Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	UFC Primetime	MMA Conn	Red Bull Air Race Preview		Best Damn Top 50 Special		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	30 for 30 (HDTV)		World Series of Poker		Curling			
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters International		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	True Jackson	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked (N)	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*The Matrix* ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction)		
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Love It or List It		Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	My Date With...	My Date With...	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Paul Telner	disBAND	UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	1998 FIFA World Cup in France				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Pink Floyd: Dark Side		G. Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Unstable
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Ice Blues* (2008, Mystery) Chad Allen, Sebastian Spence.				Cra$h & Burn (HDTV)		Law-Order
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	*Everything's Gone Green* ★★★ (2006, Comedy)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	X-Weighted		Last 10	Last 10	Chop Shop	Chop Shop	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect		Jobs in Danger
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Sarah	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*I Spy*
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Tyler Perry Movie Special		*Who's Your Caddy?* ★ (2007, Comedy), Jeffrey Jones				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Rabid"		Lost "Ab Aeterno" (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Cribs	Cribs	Going Out, Him	Spring Break Challenges		Taking, Stage	Made	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	Restaurant Makeover		Extreme Cuisine, Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	The Good Life	Dead Sea Scrolls		Archaeologist	Unearthed	Jesus
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Babar	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Justice"		Missing		The Closer "Next of Kin"		Cold Case "Justice"		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*The Promotion*	(7:25) *At Home by Myself... With You*			*The Maiden Heist* (2009, Comedy)			(10:40) *Step Brothers*	
	305	612	306	PIX	*Major Dundee*	*Wichita* ★★ (1955, Western), Vera Miles			*The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*			(10:45) *New Blood*	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Man vs. Wild		Man vs. Wild		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Britain's Next Top Model		Top Model

critics' corner

MasterWorks

"Estella Solomons" profiles the Irish artist whose work included portraits, landscapes and etchings. She's also remembered for her work away from the canvas fighting for Irish independence as a member of Cumann na mBan, a women's paramilitary organization. She brought her politics into the studio by offering it as a safe house for republican volunteers during the 1916 Easter Rising. 10 PM on TVO



Manhunters: Fugitive Task Force

After a man is shot following a drug deal gone bad, Spring Valley Detective Roxanne Lopez finds herself pursuing two suspects — a man and his girlfriend — who appear to have skipped town. An unexpected clue, however, leads Lopez and Cmdr. Lenny DePaul hundreds of miles away into Amish country in the new episode "Couple on the Run." 10 PM on A&E

Store with a European flare

Whether you're looking for a gift of unusual desserts or you want to pick up some cooked dinner, Reither's Fine Food International (530 Church St.) has got it all. This European market is a fun place to shop for ingredients. STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

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The third and latest location of Mercatto manages to straddle a fun vibe in a café-ish setup without it feeling too casual. Women in snug black dresses and heavy makeup nestle next to tables of teenage boys and families. Loud music pumps throughout the glassed-in space. You certainly feel you're downtown.

With 24 wines by the glass, there's sure to be something here for everyone. Not bad prices, either.

The Gamberi Del Diavolo ($9), four shrimp with chunks of avocado and halved sweet cherry tomatoes combines great textures with a strident red pepper heat. The Arugula Salad ($8) with pear, walnuts and pecorino needs more pear and less walnuts. Manzo — Braised Short Ribs ($19) with rough mash and caramelized onions, comes to the table cool. The meat though, is tender and sultry. Skip the Ravioli ($14) stuffed with ricotta and herbs with brown butter sage — it's dry, bland and barely warm too.

The staff is great — the hostess warmly welcomes us and our server Kanishka is friendly and makes sure we are attended to. The place is downright sexy in its look and feel. If they turned the food up a notch, they'd really have something worth going back to.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Manzo — Braised Short Ribs ($19).

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Salted Chocolate Mint Sablee Cookies

Dining out

RAW MATERIALS Whether you like it or not, the raw food craze continues on. And the newly opened Cruda Cafe (St. Lawrence Market, 92 Front St. E., Lower Level) is proof Torontonians loves their veggies. Serving vegan organic living foods, there is a rich offering of soups, salads, pasta, wraps and desserts. just got a lot healthier. Eat in or take out. Catering is also available — 905-447-6501.

GO NORTH Toronto may have a ton of Vietnamese restaurants, but Hanoi 3 Seasons (two locations) is one of the few that offers cuisine from the North. Here you'll find soups with tamarind, dill and tomatoes — ingredients you won't find in most pho. There are vermicelli and rice dishes as well. hanoi3seasons.com

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He's donating money to the starving actor fund

Matt Damon thrilled restaurant staff by leaving a $400 tip. The actor splashed out on a specially-prepared dinner for himself, wife Luciana and a group of friends at New York nightspot Stanton Social on Saturday, femalefirst.co.uk reports METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Ex-wife: James a 'serial cheater'

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT HE COULDN'T GET ANY SKETCHIER TMZ is reporting a former high level, female executive with West Coast Choppers settled a sexual harassment lawsuit against Jesse James and West Coast Choppers for more than $700,000 US in 2007, while he was married to Sandra Bullock, according to documents.

Also, James has been branded a "chronic cheater" by his ex-wife, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Janine Lindemulder — who separated from the motorcycle enthusiast after one year of marriage in May 2003 — insists she wasn't surprised to learn the Monster Garage presenter had bedded tattoo model Michelle "Bombshell" McGee while current spouse Bullock was away shooting The Blind Side.

Lindemulder — who has five-year-old daughter Sunny with James — said: "He's a chronic cheater. I feel sorry for Sandra because she was so in love with Jesse that she was blind and gullible.

"She once said, 'I finally have a man who has my back.' And all I could think was, 'No. You have this man who does it behind your back.'"

Lindemulder claims that James was unfaithful to her soon after they tied the knot and he refused to change his behaviour throughout their union.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Elin to be a no-show at Masters tourney

JESSE JAMES: THIS IS YOUR FUTURE When Tiger Woods makes his much-anticipated return to golf at the Masters, his wife, Elin Nordegren, will be thousands of miles away, as she's reportedly planning on taking their kids back to Sweden, according to People magazine.

"Elin wants to stay away from Augusta and not get involved in the frenzy of the Masters," a source says. "By not going, she sends a signal that she is staying with Tiger only because of the children. They come first."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna gets a special drum class

TURN THE BEAT AROUND Looks like Rihanna is expanding her music knowledge — with a little help from Blink 182's Travis Barker, popeater.com reports.

"Teaching Rihanna some things on drums. She JAMS!!!!! Watch out for her!!" Barker posted on Twitter Tuesday, along with a photo of the pair at a rehearsal space in L.A. Although Rihanna is seen jamming behind a drum kit in the video for her latest single, Rude Boy, rumour has it she wants a pro to teach her how to play so she can perform live on her upcoming European tour.

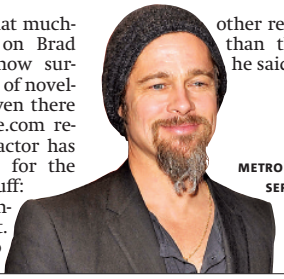
No word on which percussive instrument the lovely singer is thinking of debuting on stage, but if her videos are any indication, she's going to look great doing it.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The truth behind Pitt's beard

BILLY GOAT BRAD That much-discussed beard on Brad Pitt's chin has now surpassed the excuse of novelty. And it's not even there for a role, people.com reports. Now the actor has given his reason for the straggly facial fluff: He can't be bothered to change it. "It's boredom. No other reason than that," he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Heroes star brags about boxer beau

HE WILL BREAK YOU Hayden Panettiere admits dating boxer Wladimir Klitschko has been a new experience for her.

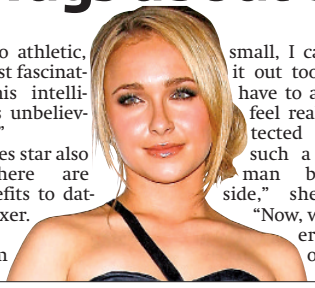
"I've never had an athlete as a boyfriend before, and it's an exciting experience," she says, according to Hollyscoop.

"I think it's awesome that he's so athletic, but I'm most fascinated with his intelligence. He's unbelievably clever."

The Heroes star also admits there are added benefits to dating a boxer. "Even though I'm small, I can dish it out too. But I have to admit, I feel really protected with such a strong man by my side," she says. "Now, whenever someone's bugging me, I say: 'Look out, my boyfriend is a boxer!'"

It's good to know the cheerleader may get saved after all. Now let's see if her boyfriend can save her show's flagging ratings too.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Splitsville for Kardashian, Bush?

SHE SAID HE'D NEVER LOVE HER LIKE US WEEKLY DOES The blogs are abuzz this week that on-again couple Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush are on the rocks, usmagazine.com reports.

The truth? The two "aren't sure where their relationship will go," a source close to the couple tells the website. Bush, a 24-year-old running back for the New Orleans Saints, and Kardashian, 29, have been dating since 2007.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

KE$HA doesn't want a feud with Justin, **MICHAEL IAN BLACK** is sprucing up his speech, and **CONAN O'BRIEN** goes after an older woman.

@keshasuxx dear justin b i am so sorry if my bad joke has hurt your feelings.u r obviouslyso talented andi would never mean to offend u.i think u r rad

@michaelianblack Need to start incorporating, "Oh, Hell no" more into my daily speech.

@ConanOBrien I'm worried health care has pushed my Tour out of the headlines. I'm also worried my anti-delusion pills are wearing off. Need more pills.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay rumoured to design for Ed Hardy

THEY'RE TRYING TO CLASS UP THEIR IMAGE. CLEARLY After being dropped as artistic director for Emanuel Ungaro earlier this month, Lindsay Lohan has reportedly found a new designer to work with.

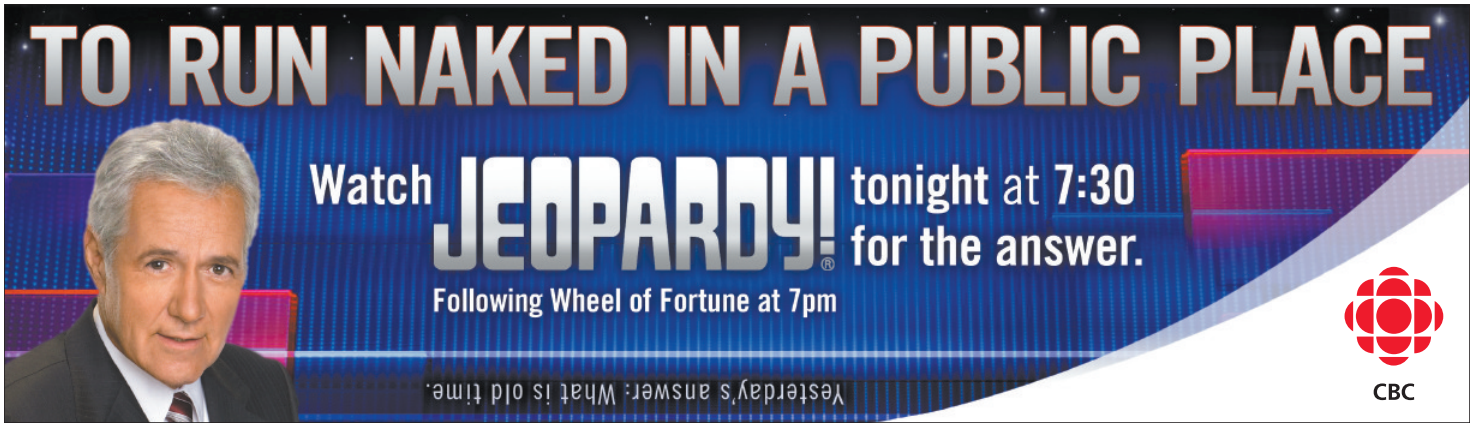
Sources say the actress is in talks with the folks at Ed Hardy to design a line of handbags, according to E! News. Lohan has denied the collaboration is taking place.

"Lindsay and the design team at Ed Hardy have mutual friends, and they knew she was interested in looking for a handbag license and partner," a source says. "They thought she'd be a good fit and so did she."

Lohan, however, denies it, posting on Twitter, "I am not designing for Ed Hardy."

However, this wouldn't be the first time Lohan has publicly denied something that later turned out to be true.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today
Showers
40%
10° / -8°

Friday
Mainly sunny
0° / -6°

Saturday
Partly cloudy
5° / 0°

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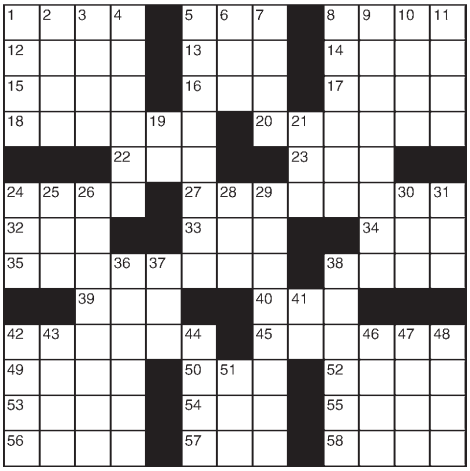

ACROSS

1 Ladder component
5 Author Weldon
8 Nowhere near
12 Between ports
13 Cry of revelation
14 Relocate
15 Lima's land
16 Shaft of light
17 Raised
18 Soothing lozenge
20 Lustful leerers
22 Coop denizen
23 Conger, e.g.
24 News
27 Collection plate contribution
32 As well
33 Tic-tac-toe win
34 Actress Farrow
35 Sieve
38 Pauley Perrette's "NCIS" role
39 "Nightmare on — Street"
40 List-ending abbr.
42 Agree to
45 Wes Craven's genre
49 Applaud
50 Chicken-king link
52 11-Down's state
53 Netting
54 Corral
55 Transmitted
56 Small salamanders
57 Blue
58 Benefit

DOWN

1 Engrossed
2 Tech support caller
3 Infamous fiddler
4 Cowboy of the pampas
5 Morning
6 Cry of discovery
7 Toy on a string
8 Spy novel author Eric
9 Wing, for example
10 State with certainty
11 Grea American Ball Park team
19 That guy
21 "Golly!"
24 With 25-Down, "— Unusual"
25 See 24-Down
26 Prediction
28 Enemy
29 Tennis stroke
30 Pen point
31 Festive
36 Hebrew letters
37 Mischievous tyke
38 Not this way
41 Infinitive introducer
42 Pinnacle
43 Staff leader?
44 Spigots
46 Comical Caroline
47 Pig's comment
48 Memory method
51 Meadow

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	3	2		1			6
		1	6	8	4			
	8		9					
		8				7	3	5
5	4	6				2		
					9		1	
			8	6	3	9		
3			5		2	4	6	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	3	9	7	4	8	2	5	6
5	8	7	2	6	1	9	3	4
4	6	2	9	3	5	8	1	7
8	2	1	4	9	7	3	6	5
3	5	4	6	1	2	7	8	9
7	9	6	5	8	3	1	4	2
6	4	3	8	2	9	5	7	1
9	1	5	3	7	4	6	2	8
2	7	8	1	5	6	4	9	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS

Nutty Maple Spinach Salad

Submitted by Thelma Ball, Dundas, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

Dressing:
1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
1/4 cup maple syrup
3 tbsp white wine vinegar
2 tsp sugar
1/3 cup vegetable oil

Glazed Nuts:
2 tsp sugar
3 tbsp maple syrup
6 tbsp water
3/4 cup whole walnuts or pecans

Salad
1/4 cup soft goat cheese
1 small bag of baby spinach
1 small red onion
12 thin slices of pickled beet

METHOD:

1. Whisk together mayonnaise, ¼ cup maple syrup, white wine vinegar, sugar and vegetable oil in a small bowl for 2 minutes. Refrigerate.
2. Mix the sugar, 3 tablespoons maple syrup and water in a small pan. Stirring constantly, bring to a slow boil over low heat. Reduce heat and add nuts. Stir to coat. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside to cool.
3. Wash spinach and dry well. Divide between 4 to 5 salad plates. Top with 3 slices of beet and thin slices of red onion. Crumble soft goat cheese on each salad and top with a generous amount of glazed nuts. Drizzle with dressing.

SERVES 4 TO 5

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will have plenty to say for yourself today and others would be wise to take note. However, don't repeat yourself on and off for the rest of the day.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Stand back from what you are doing and try to see it from a wider perspective. You are about to embark on an exceptionally busy phase.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may be eager to get started on something you have been planning for months, but a few more days won't make much difference.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The more you try to resolve a family crisis of some kind the more the solution evades you — a most frustrating state of affairs.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Travel and social plans may have to be postponed today but you won't be too disappointed.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't give away information about your financial situation, certainly not to strangers and not even to friends.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Good times are coming — you just know it — but you would be wise not to take too much for granted.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You seem strangely subdued at the moment and, if you can, you will quite happily spend some time on your own.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Are you trying too hard? Are you forcing yourself to do things that do not come naturally? Maybe that's the reason for your negative outlook.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
The planets warn if you play safe and take no risks at all you could miss out on an opportunity to move up in the world.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
If your current way of doing things is getting results then don't change it even a fraction.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Certain duties or commitments have to be dealt with and there is no way you will be able to wriggle out of them.

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GL Sport model shown

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NEW SALE PRICE $9,999♦ WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MOS.◊

2010 ELANTRA L

Limited model shown

MSRP ~~$15,849~~

NEW SALE PRICE $11,999♦ WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60 MOS.◊

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2010 ELANTRA TOURING L

GLS Sport model shown

MSRP ~~$14,899~~

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"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ♦Prices for models shown: 2010 Accent 3 DR GL Sport 5-speed is $14,299/2010 Elantra Limited is $20,449/2010 Elantra Touring GLS Sport is $21,899/2010 Santa Fe Limited is $33,799/2010 Tucson Limited is $32,449/2011 Sonata Limited is $28,999. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2010 Accent/$1,495 for 2010 Elantra/$1,760 for 2010 Elantra Touring/$1,760 for 2010 Santa Fe/$1,760 for 2010 Tucson/$1,565 for 2011 Sonata, registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2010 Accent 3Dr/2010 Elantra Touring/2010 Santa Fe models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0% for 36/60/36/60 month terms. Financing example: 2010 Accent L 3DR 5-speed for $9,999 at 0% per annum equals $319.26 per month for 36 months for a total obligation of $11,494. Cash price is $11,494. Example price includes Delivery & Destination of $1,495. Example price excludes registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes. ♦♦Leasing offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited; dealer order may be required. ‡The Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ‡‡You may qualify for an additional incentive if you turn in your 1995 model year and older vehicle and participate in the national Retire Your Ride program, funded by the Government of Canada. To qualify, your vehicle must be 1995 model year or older, in running condition and fully registered and insured in the participant's province for the last 6 consecutive months. Upon confirmation of eligibility for the Retire Your Ride program, Hyundai Auto Canada will provide additional Clean Air Cash that must be applied to the purchase of a new Hyundai vehicle in the amount of $500 - 2009 Accent / $500 - 2009 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2009 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2009 Tucson / $500 - 2009 Santa Fe / $1,000 - 2009 Genesis Sedan / $1,000 - 2009 Veracruz / $1,000 - 2009 Azera / $2,000 - 2010 Genesis Coupe / $2,000 - 2010 Equus. Offer is subject to change without notice. Dealer may sell for less or lease for more. Dealer may not be a participant in the Retire Your Ride program. Not all vehicles may be eligible for the program. To participate in the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. 5 years or 100,000 km, whichever comes first. Transferable to second owner. Deductible may apply. Some components have shorter coverage periods. See dealer for details. Not all customers will be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. For more information about the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.